

1847
Janry
1

In
tro
duc
tion

Sketch Book No 21, from
January 1st 1847 to March 15
Friday. Morn cloudy foggy
& wind SW the day the same.
In continuing my Journal
and Sketches, I am aware that
I have already written more
than even my most patient
friends will ever peruse. But
as I write for my own amuse-
ment in my lonely hours,
and not for the public. I
shall continue them finding
that, at least, they enable me
to keep a sort of calendar of
the days and months, which
like a seamans logbook
shows the ships way and its
various occurring incidents;
and as our political ship is
now on a perilous voyage among
shoals rifts & ice bergs, and un-
der an inexperienced commander
who

Janry
1st

Same
continued }

who relies more on dead
reconing than on celestial ob
servations these seem to be
additional motives for extending
my Journal. I shall there
fore note the [], storms,
and hair-breath escapes of
the ship, with its opposite
currents & variation of []
[] &c.

In forming my remarks and
observations by what riflemen
call off hand shots, I may some
times repeat ideas and senti
ments previously given; but
if they are pertinent at the
time, I shall consider them
not essentially out of place {—}

In my remarks on the war
with Mexico, believing it to be
wholly unnecessary, and brought
on by the strides of President
Polk and his party, I have
been free in my expressions
of its turpitude; and so long

Jany
1 }

as it bears this character, can
the president give it his hearty support.

Con
tinued }

A war for conquest with
out regard to justice can add
nothing to the glory of a na
tion, which provokes it.

But let a war ever so
unjust, a certain portion of
community will be ready
to support it, especially the
young and inconsiderate. They
hear of the military exploits
of their fathers & grandfathers,
and without the least know
ledge of the hardships or hor
rors of war, they are charm
ed with the pageant, and
without reflection, rush on
to the melee. But generally
a little [] service turns
their thoughts to their homes,
and they too late repent of
their temerity.

During a peace of thirty years
a new race of this description of
of men has risen among us

Jany

1

Continued }

and nothing but the shout
of war and its [] empty baub
bles are necessary to lead them
on to the fatal trap. I hear
the noisy demagogue infers
that the war is popular;
but let it be recollected that
he generally keeps himself out
of harms way. In my fur
ther remarks, I shall endeavor
to award [] justice to these
patriots, who would prostrate
the welfare & happiness of their
country to their nefarious designs

In the papers of the day, we
often see pretensions to new dis
coveries on arts & sciences with
puffs from their learned editors: but
like the flints of a meteor pass
into oblivion. When I notice these
pretensions, it is with a view of
showing the unbelievability of minds
who dabble with science beyond
their capacity.

In politics we shall keep an eye

Jany

1

Con

tinued}

the radical principles which wild democracy would introduce, and which, if carried out through the union, would prostrate all that is valuable in our government, and its institutions. Recollecting with a wise writer "That when infamous men bear sway, the post of honor is a private station."¹

2

Saturday. Morn cloudy, and wind NE, last night some rain. the day partially fair.

A List of 761 desertions from the U.S. Army, it is stated, has been published in New York City papers, by the Adjutant General and a ~~reward~~ 30 dollars each, offered as a reward. This is a specimen of the volunteer spirit so rife on Mr Polks first call for them.

Of the total incompetency of volunteer corps, under officers of their own choice, I have entertained but one opinion; and to invade & extensive country with such troops demonstrates the folly of the Government which directs it.

Deser
tionsfrom
Army

But

¹ From Joseph Addison's *Cato: A Tragedy*, a favorite play of George Washington.

Jany
2
Undis
ciplined
troops }

But it will be said, the volunteers fought bravely at Monterey
This is not denied: they in some instances fought desperately and performed individual feats, where well disciplined troops would have attacked with more caution and succeeded with less loss, by adhering to regulated skill.
Of the native bravery of volunteers no doubts are entertained; but this bravery is chivalrous fluctuating and uncertain in its effects, and often ends in a panic where disciplined troops preserve perfect order. This native bravery is generally the result of ignorance of experience; and in a second battle sometimes fails entirely. The regular soldier is not destitute of fear, but he is taught that disobedience of orders is more dangerous, and he keeps his place in the ranks because he dares not [] without orders.
In the attacks of undisciplined men too much reliance is placed

Jany
2

placed upon individual exertion, to the neglect of combined movement of the different corps engaged, when the whole are to act on one combined machine; and here is seen the difference between regular and irregular troops.
Nor is this all: in camp the latter cannot be brought to implicit and patient obedience to orders, and they often become mutineers, and averse to the regularity which is essential in an army, and without which the men are little better than a mob.
These are considerations generally overlooked by men unacquainted with military service, and who believe that bravery alone contributes the solution—an error too common among our political leaders, who have not examined the art of war in its various branches.
From some late hints in the papers, it appears that President Polk begins to think that an army of regular troops is necessary for an invasion of Mexico & that he is about to recommend the raising of such a force.

with such a ~~foree~~ army in the field.
 Jany 2 we may talk of conquests while
 the volunteer corps remain at home
 engaged in their proper employments
 3 Sunday. Morn cloudy wind
 W. and day partially fair.
 Mr Har
ris' Ser
mon on
the Mex
ican War } I have read a sermon de
 livered at Conway on the Annual
 Thanksgiving Novr. 26, 1846 by the
 Rev. Samuel Harris, Pastor of the
 Congregational Church of that place.
 Amidst the singular apathy which
 reigns in relation to the war with
 Mexico, I am grateful to find
one so able & willing to exam
 ine the causes and foundation
 of the war. The preacher has
 treated his subject fairly and
 [], and embraced the
 very points which have struck
 my mind as important, and
 which demanded the consider
 ation of every enlightened man
 within the United States.

The

A wise
dis
course }

- Jany The preacher's text from Habakuk 2:12, is appropriate: "Wo to him that buildeth a town with blood, and establisheth a city by iniquity."
- 3 His sermon is well calculated to rouse the public mind to a just sense of the miasma of the present administration of our federal government.
- [] pub
lished } The Preacher richly deserves the thanks of every patriot of his Country~
- 4 Monday. Cloudy morn. wind N. And day the same. In the evening snow fell~ How happens it that were our army in Mexico, has made so little progress since the storm of Monterey? The grant of 50,000 volunteers with the regular force and 12 millions of dollars for an out-fit, every democrat supposed sufficient to complete the conquest of the country. But President Polk has discovered that
- Query about the army }

Jany
4
Mr P.
disaray}

troops require provisions as well as fire arms and ammunition to carry on a war: and also that soldiers are not made in a taylors shop, or by bowl ing green dances at the tunes of a band of musick. The volun teer spirit of the western & south ern states having abated, the Pre sident seems, now inclined to try the spirit of the northern Yankees, especially of Massachusetts; but none of the General officers are found in that quarter of the Uni on, where the chivalrous spirit is not so predominant as on the south. Our regimental officers however, are admissible provided they can enlist their men, and are subservient to southern "gal lentry & fanified superiority".

5 Friday. Morn fair wind SW followed by a very fair day and moderate air, The snow of moderate depth be it suffi cient for sleighing

Jany 6 Wednesday Morn fair,
wind SW; and a very fair pleasant
day followed.

Our General Court in Ses sion } This day our General Court
assembles at Boston to trans act the annual business of the state, and to enact the necessary, or, it may be said un necessary laws. The Executive the Council, and Senate will be free from democratic misrule, and in the House the radical mem bers will be few; and it is hoped resolutions will pass express ing strong disapprobation of the unjust Mexican War, into which we have been plunged by the extraordinary strides of President Polk, which ought to be more extensively known by the people.

Anti cipated pro ceedings } By similar strides in the dis pute of an Northeastern bounda ry & that of Oregon, the President would have plunged us into a war with Great Britain; and if it be

Jany 6 admitted that he kept with in the bounds of the Constitution where he ordered a military force to the Nueces the claimed bound ary of Texas it is clear that when he invaded the disputed terri tory between that river and the Rio Grand, he exceeded his power and wantonly caused the war with Mexico,-- a power which the constitution vests in Con gress: and if that body shut ting their eyes to the President's un lawful stride, sanctioned thereby measures for prosecuting the war, the members are respon sible to the abused people, at the ballot boxes a mild rem edy indeed, but un effectual one when the people are tied to their interests & moral principles. If such strides of a President be suffered to [] with impunity, then we shall at all times, be liable to wars with neighboring nations; when the President is so disposed. But

Mr Polks invasion of Mexico } Unlaw ful and danger ous }

Sanctioned by a ma jority of Congress }

Cause of wars }

Jany

6

Lesson}
taught}

the fate of the Roman Empire and that of Bonaparte, it is hoped, will afford us useful lessons. The conquest of Mexico, consisting of a population of 7 or 8 millions, may not be so easy as our wild war hawks had supposed; nor will our precocious ambition be [] [] by the civilized nations of the world. Let us then, return to a sort of justice, keep within our limits, and none will be found to distract our repose.

In peace our nation is a respectable member of the great family of men, but in an offensive war, a disturber of the harmony on which the welfare of the world rests, as well as our own.

Give us peace and we may become great, war, and we may be deprived of our happy condition.

The motive principles of the present war can be easily explained by southern men, and Mr Polk was elected to prosecute it; but it is a mystery that northern people should give in to it.

Admi

nistration}

Jany 6 Congratu lations on the Success of the election in the State	<p><u>voluntary</u> aid, while it strikes at the first principles of our declaration of Independence.</p> <p>The success of the state in the election of its Governor & Legislature for the ensuing year, is a cause of congratulations, and evinces a return of the people to good sense—Nor is this progress confined to Massachusetts. “New England first in freedom’s Van, To toil & bleed for injured man, Still true to Virtue, dares to say <u>Order is Freedom Man obey!</u>”²</p>
Governor Briggs	<p>We look for Governor Briggs Message with increased anticipa tions of a sound display of the politics & wisdom of the state <u>Thursday.</u> Morn cloudy & fog gy wind SW. Some rain and the day the same in the evening sharp lightning.</p>
Remarks of a Boston paper	<p>A Boston paper remarking upon volunteer corps of militia says the American ideas of independ ence makes men rather [] under the harness of military service;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">and</p>
7	

² Robert Treat Paine’s *Rule, New England.*

Jany
7
on
dura
tion }

and asserts that there are more desertions from our little army of 10,000 men, than from the French force of 300,000 soliders.

Probably the statement is correct, and is accounted for on the principles of American liberty, the writer alludes to.

Lib
er
ty
and
equal
ity }

The ideas of liberty & equality which prevail in a republic and are supposed the bases of the system, are, however, the reverse of those that are found necessary in the government of soldiers. When the citizen enlists into military service, he renounces all claims to this sort of liberty, and becomes a tool in the hands of his officers. He must not even ask for explanations, of movements, a plan adopted by his commander, but implicitly obey all orders he receives, with cheerfulness and without hesitation when ordered to the most desperate attack, he must keep his place in the rank

Its
effects
on
soldiers }

Jany
7
 The re
verse of
military
discip
line } and divest himself of all thought
but obedience; and when
he sees his companions falling
on his right and left, he must
not flinch, or retreat without
the command of his officer.
 To bring men to such service,
is no easy lesson, especially for those
who have been bred up to
 [] liberty & freedom
 of action; and hence the []
 that are always found in
 volunteer soldiers; especially
 in those who elect their offi
cers without control. And
 here it may be remarked, that
 the different estimation in which
 the candidates for officer are
 held, by the soldiers, will tend
 to destroy the harmony of the
 corps, and to introduce a spirit
 of democratic opposition, ruin
 ous to the discipline of armies ~~the corps~~
 In short, to use the words of Gen.
 Mercer who fell in the attack
 on Princeton in 1777, “The giving
 to man the choice of their officers
 will forever mar the discipline
 of armies.”

Ruin
ous to
discipline }
 Gen
Mercers }
 opinion }

Jany

7

Sold
iers of
mona
rchies

of re
publican
soldiers

False
notion

In monarchical Governments this spirit of liberty and equality, is little known; a spirit of subordination reigns even in civil life, and when the subjects become soldiers their change of condition is scarcely felt, and they submit to orders from a habit which they have been taught in civil life at home.
 But republicans, may be converted to obedient soldiers, yet the process is more difficult than in a monarchy, & requires a longer time. ~ I am aware of the notion entertained by some, that the republican acts more from principle than the subjects of a monarch; but those who place the prowess of troops on their general, have made but a superficial examination of the art of war. These men tell us of the love of country of the love of family & of friends! as sufficient stimulants to the

Jany
7

Citizen
Soldiers }

performance of military duty:
but ask the opinion of any
experienced scientific offer, []
these stimulants [] are to be relied
on, and he will smile at the
pretension so ill founded.

The truth is, when the citizen
becomes a soldier, he ~~must~~ give
up all thought of liberty, and
equality, and { } per
form his duty in the military
machine in which he is placed,
and ask no reasons for the
movements his commander dic
tates.

These are considerations
which seem to be disregarded
by the gentlemen who are
engaged in the enlistment of
volunteer corps for the army;
but experience sad experi
ence may, too late, bring them
to their to their notice.

If the above views are
correct, the fallacy of Mr
Polks volunteer soldiers will
appear; and from a recent

Jany
7

recommendation to Congress
to raise 10 new regiments of
regular troops, the officers to
be appointed & commissioned
by the Executive head it seems that
he has at length learned that
his volunteers are not sol
diers fit for an invasion
and that he and his war
hawks, will also learn that though
we have a numerous military
so called, yet we are far
from being a military nation
as many of our [] sup
posees.

Our success in the war of the
revolution, aided by France,
has created a false estimation
of our strength, but the total
failure of Mr Madison's war
of 1812, ought to have taught
us modesty in our pretensions
We are however not powerless
in a defensive war, in which
right and justice is inserted on
our standard. When this
shall be our ruling motto we
shall have nothing to fear.

Jany Let us then revise our course
 7 and render justice where jus-
 tice is due: and if in a treaty
 of peace with Mexico we relin-
 quish the parts of the territo-
 ry we have overrun we
 should obtain a rich reward
 in a returning sense of Justice
 and honor, as well as in
 the esteem of civilized nations
 who are not unattended to
 our movements and strides.

8 Tuesday. Morn fair, wind S.W.;
 the day fair, but with
 many scattering clouds.

Mr Polks }
 Lt Genl }
 In President Polks call on
 Congress for 10 new regiments
 of regulars, he proposes the
 appointment of a Gen. officer
 to command all the armies
 in Mexico Who is the sublime
genius he has in view Wash-
 ington, Wellingtons and
 Bonaparts are easily found.
 and Gen. Scott's tactics begin to
 show the rust. Mr Polks
[] recent General, selected
 from

Jany 8 from the school of modern democracy, unembarrassed by strategic rules, or the timely operations of [] is to introduce new modes of attack and defense in which the rifle and tomahawk of the back-woods men are to perform wonders, not dreamed of before [] [], Marlborough, or the other systematic commanders of Europe in later times.

His quail ficas tions } The remark of Marsall Ta raire, "that he had sometimes been more puzzled by a block head than an able general" may have suggested to Mr. Polk the appointment of a Liet. General, who, [] by the rules and maxims of war would achieve victories by his im methodical attacks, better adopt ed to the chivalrous bravery of the times, and especially to his volunteers who, like Burns' Scotsmen with

Ta raire's } re mark }

Jany

8

New
General
& new
method

with a Highland gill in his
cheek,
“Nae no thought but how to kill
twa at a blow.”³

Away then, with the mechan-
ical movements of disciplined
troops of the old school!

Mr Polks Leut. General will
need no aid from the rules
of Frederick 3d, or [] or
the West-Point school. Like
Cande, he is to burst upon

the world and surprise man
kind by his exploits unaid
by previous study and reflection:
and who is better able to judge
of such talents than Mr
Polk, who prior to his pro-
motion to the Presidency, was
unknown to the people of the
United States out of the precincts
of Tennessee.

Saturday. Morn fair, wind SW
PM Cloudy

Mr
Polks
abil-
ity for
[]

9

Mr

³ Robert Burns' *The author's earnest cry and prayer*.

Jany
9
Call
for
taxes
on tea
& coffee}

Mr Secretary Walker appears to be alarmed at the state of the publick funds, and urges Congress to post a duty on Tea & Coffee, but the House of Representatives, fearful of the effects at the ballot-boxes opposed the project and the a re sort may be had to a direct tax Thus adopted, the people will be "set to rights" When the war commenced, was there a democrat in the country who supposed money would be wanted to conquer the Halls of Montezuma and spread liberty & equality over "benighted" Mexico? Not one! A small force of rifle hunters from the waters of the Mississip pi was to accomplish this

Jany
9

work of love – This be
nevolent interference with
the institutions, laws
and rights of a sister re
public which desires to
establish an independence
of its own.

But after a campaign
of nine months, it appears
that our ready volunteers
aided by Gen. Taylors regu
lars, have made but a
small advance beyond the
Rio Grande, and that Mex
ico is unconquered.

Mr Polk is however pre
paring a force for this pur
pose, and our Boston reg
iments composed of pure pat
riots who, by the way, that
city can well spare, are filled with
the spirit of Bunker-Hill, is

nearly

Jany
9
Bos
ton
Regi
ment }

nearly ready for the field,
and who can doubt that
this corps will give a new
fever to the war, and push
on to the city of Mexico, &
enforce liberty on a people
who are content with their
own, Aye! says a facetious poet
Go, Go, Go;
To the nations show,
We are freemen by our birth;
Free for madness or for mirth;
Free to conquer all the earth
After Mexico~⁴

10 Sunday. Morn cloudy—
wind NW continued clou
dy with some snow.
and cold air afternoon
The winter thus far, has
not been severely cold, nor
the snow of uncommon
depth, yet sufficient for
good sleighing and sled
ing.

⁴ From a song called “The Volunteer’s Song” which was one of three war protest songs published in *The Liberator*.

Jany 11 Monday. Cloudy morn
with some snow; wind
N. day same. at night fair
Vol. 3 }
of Ex ploring }
Expedi tion }
Feejee }
Group }

Exploring Expedition Vol. 3
This vol. embraces the voyage
from New-Zealand north
ward, through various groups
of Island to Honolulu.
The Feejee group, between
Latitudes 15°--30' and 19°--30' S
and the Logitudes 177° E and 178
W. consists of 154 islands, 65 of
which are inhabited, and the
remainder occasionally resorted
to by the nations. At one of
the islands the native killed
two of the officers of the Squadron,
for which the Commodore
ordered the destruction of several
of their towns, killed many, and
and obtained promises to de
sist from similar outrages
for the future. The population
of the islands is

Jany 11 is stated at about 133,000
and some of them cannibals
and it appears they are in
the use of a few fire arms and
have a rude mode of fortifying
places. The squadron made
a general survey of the group
a map of which is given in
the atlass.

Hono lulu } Honolulu is represented as con-
siderably advanced towards
civilization, especially from
the instructions of missiona-
ries of western nations.
Many of the islands in
the Pacific Ocean indicate a
volcanic origin, while others
are evidently Coralline pro-
trusions, and as both pro-
cesses are going on may
we not infer that there
~~there~~ was a time when they
were less numerous. But the
genuine question presented to

- Jany
11
Islands }
how
peopled }
not
solved }
- inquiring minds is, by what natural means have they been peopled? The question may never be satisfactorily solved, but by supposing the same creation power that planted man in the main lands, extended to the distant isles of the ocean.
- 12
- Tuesday. Morn fair, wind W and the day fair, excepting scattering clouds toward sunset, with blustering wind & driving the snow with "whirling drift".
- "Descend ye chilling smothering snows,
Not all your rage as now, united shows your rage
More hard unkindness, unrelenting,
Vengeful malice, unrepenting,
Than heaven illunin'd man or man bestows
See stern oppression's iron grip,
Or mad ambitions gory hand
Senders, like blood-hounds from the slip

Jany 12 Woe, want, and murder o'er a land,
 Even in the peaceful rural vale
 Truth, weeping, tells the mournful tale.⁵

13 Wednesday. Morn fair wind W;
 the day mostly cloudy.
 In the Congress House of Repre-
 sentatives, Jany 2d, Mr Sims⁶ offered
 a resolution as follows: “That the
people of the U. States are too
patriotic to refuse to submit to
necessary taxes in time of war.
 Would not the question have
 been more properly presented to
 the people? And the time seems
 to be approaching when they will
 answer it, at the ballot boxes.
 The expenses of a war may be
 come necessary for its abettors but
 it does not here follow that the war
is necessary. Of this the people
will judge when they feel
 the pressure, whether necessary
 or unnecessary. Let Congress keep this
in view.
 Mr Sims' call upon patriotism

⁵ Robert Burns' *A Winter Night*.

⁶ Leonard Henly Sims (1807-1886) was a Democratic Representative from Missouri.

Jany
13
M Sims
call up
on pat
riotism}

will be but faintly heard
when the tax gather's im
perilous rape brings the echo
to the door of the peaceful
citizen, whose industry fur
nishes himself and family
scarcely support; nor will the
wealthy man pour out his
dollars without reflection
upon the useless waste
and folly of the government
who produced the necessity.

Mr Sims is from Missouri
where patriotism may
be current; but let him
be cautious that he
does not depreciate its val
ue nor suffer it to be
counterfeited.

Mr
Polks
recent
message}

Mr Polk's recent message to Con
gress recommending an increase
of regular troops for the army
in Mexico, to say the least, []
[] of disappointment, in
his militia volunteers.

But

Jany
13

Call
for reg
ular
troops

But whether his ten regiments can be enlisted, disciplined & fitted for the field, "before the present favorable season for military operations in the enemy's country shall have passed away is rather doubtful. Another hot season may be as fatal to his new troops as that of the campaign of 1846. On the Rio Grande. We think however, Mr Polk evinces some advance in his acquirements in the art of war, and has at least learned how to appreciate the value of volunteer corps of militia.
The suggestions he presents to Congress in relation to a large peace & the age of officers, will not be misunderstood by some of the experienced commanders. A Leut. General with a carte blanche may obviate all the difficulties of which Mr Polk complains.

But

Jany
13
Mr
Polk's
position
criti
cal.

But on the whole, Mr Polks position is rather critical In the adjustment of the Oregon territory he lost the confidence of many of his western friends whose favorite objects were war with Great Britain, & the conquest of Canada and other British provinces. The expenses of the Mexican war begin to incite the attention of the thinking people, and should the conquest of the whole of Mexico be delayed, beyond the present "favorable season" his northern and southern patriots may attribute it to the lack of democratic energy which admits of no delay for preparation. Under these circumstances Mr Polk, find that his public duties are not so thickly strewed with flowers as he had supposed. He may however learn more of the nature of modern democracy than he had acquired in Tennessee.

Jany
14

Gov
Briggs
mes
sage
where
is it

Thursday Morn cloudy, wind
W. PM sun appeared & then again cloudy
This is the 9th day of the
session of our General Court, and
as yet, we hear nothing of Gov.
Briggs' message to that body What
has happened to our magnetic
telegraphs are their wires broken
His message of Gov Young, we
are informed, was transmitted by
telegraph, from Albany to New
York City, within 2 ½ hours
This rapidity of commun
cation may be gratifying to Mr
Morse, but the public, we
believe, will be content with
rail road speed. Mr Morse
we fear will not be compen
sated for his very ingenious
labor. On extended lines
no care will inforce a con
tinuity of the conducting wires.
And I apprehend other dif
ficulties from various course
which our imperfect knowledge

Jany 14 of the laws of magnetism, galvanism and electricity, does not enable us to assign.

15 Friday. Morn cloudy, wind NW. and the day the same throughout.

Governors message received } The Governors Message to the Gen. Court I have received this day. It is replete with good sense, and develops important views in relation to the annexation of Texas, and of the designs of the war with Mexico, to which people begin to open their eyes

Its character } The Message was delivered presently by the Gov. Tuesday the 12th instant. I am gratified to find the affairs of the Commonwealth on so flourishing a condition, owing no doubt, to the correct policy now adopted by a majority of the people of the state: and may we not hope that further diffusion of

Jany 15 of correct principles, will at length do away the opposition to para
republicanism to which some of our fellow citizens still adhere from a false notions of patriotism which never fail to bring confusion and and its concomitant evils where it is supposed

16 Saturday. Morn cloudy with fog and SW wind PM fair

Mexi can affairs } Late accounts from Mexico say Santa Anna is advancing with a large force to cut off some of the detached divisions of our army, and that Gen. Worth, at Saltillo may be forced to retire to form a junction with Gen. Taylor's force. An army acting by distant detachments is liable to defeat, especially when the enemy is superior in force

Jany
16
Army } news And an army of superior force may become weakly when acting in detachments for and may be inferior to the force the enemy may bring against it. The scattered parts of the British army in New Jersey in 1776, and Burgoyne's detachment to Bennington in 1777, are instances of this kind both from a false confidence of superiority in ~~the~~ troops Santa Anna probably has studied those principles, and Mr Polk may find them difficult to deal with. That 6 or 7 millions of people can be conquered at a blow is not believed. The war may be protracted to years; but if we conquer her what benefit shall

Mili
tary }
remarks }

Jany
South
ern
views
& plans } shall we derive from it?
The southern people no
doubt have a plan. They
would divide the territory
into states, establish slavery
among them and admit them
into a Southern Union, when
accomplished they would
separate from us & become
a Grand slave holding gov
ernment ultimately include
ing the west India, Islands,
and Guatemala would soon
fall into their Grasp.
But with a free nation which
regards the rights of man for
their neighbor, their slavery
would not be a very quiet in
stitution: and in case of a
war between the two nations
might be the ruin of the slave
holding nations. Future History
may find much to record in
its volumes; and what will
most

Re
marks }

Jany
16
North
ern
blind
ness }

Symp
toms
in Con
gress }

Effects
of }

most surprise futurity will be the fact that many of the northern people were so hood winked by party spirit, that they saw not their danger until too late to remedy the fatal evil.

Some of the members of Congress who are willing to support the present war, have declared that no more slave states shall be annexed to our union; this has advanced to south, and they are loud in their declarations of a disunion of the states.

If slave states are to be added to the Union they express a readiness to sustain the war; but not on the conditions that free states shall be brought into the confederation. Will northern men still repose in security under their state of things and indulge in the dream that we have nothing to do with slavery.

Jany
16

Our Federal Constitution has been our pride, and indeed it made us a nation respected by the civilized world; but if perverted to the worst purposes, the principles of our declaration of independence repudiated and the conquest of a neighboring nation is to be effected to extend the power of slavery, it is time for the friends of liberty and the unalienable rights of men life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—to look to the consequences and if possible, ward off the evil before it is too late. If our northern democracy still remain blind to the plans of southern oligarchy they richly deserve all the evils that are now preparing for them by their supposed southern friends. That this delusion should continue among our people, is one of the strangest anomalies of the human mind. One

Jany 16 Taxes effects } One saving remedy however is preparing—the people will soon be called upon to defray the expenses of the war, And when the taxgather appears the delusion will vanish like a fog before a hurricane, but the ruin will remain to mark the folly of the present wild spirit, which the democracy of the north and the oligarchy of the south has imposed on the country. But let us hope the storm will be averted before it lays us in ruins

17 Sunday. Morn fair wind W and cold; the day the same

18 Monday. Morn cloudy. wind S.W. Pm Snow fell In tracing the operation of Armies in Mexico, I find a want of more extended maps and a good geographical description

of

Jany
18

Our
mili
tary
oper
ation}

the country than I possess.
To judge of military move
ments with any degree of
correctness, and accurate know
ledge of the country is necesse
ry; such as descriptions of
its rivers, lakes, plains, moun
tains, forests, defiles, roads, and dif
ficult passes, fortified places
&c. Without a knowledge of
these particulars the command
er of an invading army is always
liable to defeat, even with
a superior numerical force.
The success of Gen. Taylors
battle has created a confi
dence of the superiority of our
troops, which may be lost
by a few reserves. The mo
ment volunteer corps find
themselves beaten, they are
little better than a mob
and obedience to the command
of their officers is at an end.

Jany
18
Mexi
can force }
in the
field }

The Mexican force now under Santa Anna is estimated from 20,000 to 30,000, but the estimation is doubtful. If he is a prudent as well as a skillful commander he, like our Washington, will act on the defensive, avoid general battles, and avail himself of advantages & strong positions in his rear. The Fabian system is evidently his true course; and in a country so extended as that of Mexico, he may find a Torres Vedras tenable against even a Masse na. With his 80,000 French men.
In our victories thus far, nothing is seen for b[o]asting. Mexico is still an extensive nation, and may secure her territory with

- Jany 18 A cordon of strong fortification, sufficient for her effectual defence.
 In short, from the small progress towards a conquest of the country during the nine months of war, I think it may be protracted much beyond the time anticipated by our reckless democrats.
- 19 Thursday. Morn fair wind W and the day generally clear and cold.
 The Bill for raising Mr Polks 10 new regiments of regulars in the old method, by appointment of the officers we are informed has passed the lower House in Congress and probably will pass the Senate. Had this step been taken at the commencement of the war the process of enlistment would
- The 10 regi
ment bill }

Jany
19
Remarks
on }

have been more rapid. A great portion of the volunteers whose enlistments are about to expire, will probably return to their homes and farms disgusted with the play in which they had so readily engaged, and the stories they will relate of the hardships & sickness they have endured, will be a [] er to the success of the recruiting officer. In time of peace where young men are charmed and bewitched by military show the case is different; then nothing of the hardships & horrors of war are foreseen, even a battle is thought to be a pleasant sport. Where this spirit prevails recruiting may be rapid, especially in our large cities, where a portion of the population is always ready for an archy and spoil—a spirit how ever which must be thoroughly

modded

Jany
19

modled before men possessing it
can be made soldiers.

The folly of attempting to carry
on war with corps of militia
volunteers begins to be seen by
a majority of Congress: and if
the war with Mexico continues
I trust we will be convinced that
nothing short of a competent
force of regular troops will con
quer Mexico, or bring her to equi
table terms of peace.

At the commencement of
the war blind democracy saw no
thing of this, a few corps of ri
flemen from the western regions
were deemed competent for the
conquest of any neighboring nation
and when the Oregon boundary
was adjusted, she expressed regret
that an opportunity was lost for
whipping Great Britain as well as
Mexico.

The present war may teach us use
ful lessons namely that crude
notions of liberty & equality embrace
little of the elements of war, and
that industry and economy are essen
tial to our happiness & prosperity.

Jany 20	<p><u>Wednesday.</u> Morn fair wind W. and day pretty cold The snow of moderate depth but good sleighing.</p>
My im paired eye sight	<p>Since my eye sight has become so impaired as to render it difficult to read in the evening, I am de prived of much of my en joyment. While my eyes were good, I always found objects for entertainment and indeed, instruction, and when deprived of several friends, I often found my self most busi ly engaged.</p>
Abated my en joy ment	<p>In my various readings I have preferred the authors who give us scientific in struction. Most works</p>
My former read ing	

Jany 20
Works of fiction of little value }

imagination & fiction such as novels & romances, I have held in little estimation, though I may have been pleased with their style and easy manner of handling language I have always found them deficient in imparting rules and principles, like works of science, durable and useful. Indeed after having read one scientific author, I am led to another, and, in fact, find them all connected, and the sources of information unbound; and thus the man of a scientific taste is never at a loss for subjects that commend his attention.

History }

Next to scientific study is that of history, which one remarks is philosophy lacking by example and

Jany

20

Value
of

and though, in its details much is found that is not immediately interesting, yet they give the outlines of man under almost all conditions in which he is placed, and of course are worthy of consideration.

No
tion
of young
men

Young men, I observe, often neglect copious histories, and prefer fugitive scraps to concatenated details, which they consider as mostly records of lines unworthy of notice in these improved days.

Ancient history, it is true, contains much that is fabulous, but it also contains much that is true; and it is for the critical reader to separate the pure metal from the dross. Modern history, particularly so far as they relate to political affairs, is often distorted & miscoloured by party

- Jany 20 writers, who have more regard to their schemes than the truth. But the men of sound principles are extensive service, is able to detect the misrepresentations.
- 21 Thursday. Morn fair, wind W. and cold air The day generally fair
No proceedings of our Genl. Court, for about a week past This is rather anti republi can, while we have so many rail-roads & magnetic telegraphs in operation.
- 22 Friday Morn fair wind S.W.
and very cold last night &
this morn; day fair.
We often hear of expressions of dissatisfaction, particularly from Greenfield people, in relation to the location of the rail road through the northern part of Deerfield to their village. This error did not escape my notice
at
- our
Rail
road } }

Jany

22

Unwise
choice
of route}

Diffi-
culty
of a
cer-
tain
action}

at the time the location was made. A primary object should have been to gain an elevation to the Greenfield plateau where a depot should have been erected on that level, where an easy route might be found for a continuation of the road northward.

By terminating the road at the present depot, above that plateau, I see no way for an easy extension, but by passing up Green river on a circuitous & difficult route, which will entirely shun that village. I am aware of the argument urged for the present route—namely to keep within a certain grade. This was a secondary object and was of no more weight than a feather, provided the grade did not exceed what is found practicable on many other routes. Whether the error in the location was owing to the obstinacy of the

Jany
22

great expense
of the road

engineer, or the misjudgment
of the directors of the company,
I am not certain. But one thing
is clear, the construction of the
road has been attended with
a monstrous unnecessary expense
which, if not fatal to the ex-
terprise, may be a great ob-
struction to its success. The
cost of the road, from Springfield
to Greenfield, is said to have been about
one million of dollars; and who
believes the company will find
a profit on this out-lay. I wish
for the prosperity of the road, but
cannot avoid expressing my regret
at the unwise locations and the
consequent unnecessary expense;
and also my fears that the em-
barkments over some of the deep ra-
vines, will give way before heavy
rains, such as were once frequent
here, of which the young men of
the present day seem to have
no adequate conceptions. Let
but one of our old January thaws

Jany

22

Danger
from
heavy
rains

now
less
fre
quent

or an early spring flood
of former times occur & what
would be their astonishment
on viewing the destruction
produced by their violence.
Even one of the old thunder
showers of summer would de
posit water sufficient to sweep
away the firmest embankments
unless secured by ample and
perfect culverts. These tremen
dous and once common, effects
of nature, have of late years be
come less frequent, but they may
return in all their vigor; and
then the fragile works of man
will be seen in all their weakness.
Taking into consideration the
cost of the road and its unfavor
able location below the
Greenfield plateau there is rea
son to fear that a continu
ation up the vally of the Con
necticut will turn out a
failure which would not have
occurred had the road been
wisely

Jany
22

wisely located and the cost of construction been kept within due limits a failure all must consider unpropitious.

From the remarkable level ness of the route from Northamp to Cheapside, lending with the exception of our Wappin long hill, it was believed that about 400,000 dollars would have covered the expense of construction to the Greenfield plateau; including the bridges, land, and the engine cars and all the necessary opera tions. If this estimate is too low then, I think, rail roads cannot be constructed & maintained on routes that do not command [] [] between great marts; and that the present rage for them, on routes for the accommodation of a few internal towns must subside, and the people content themselves with other well constructed roads with in their ability.

Jany 23 Saturday. Morn fair wind
SW and a fair day
We have this day, after a
lapse of a week, received a
few details of the General Court
but nothing of high import
is, as yet, before them. The Hon
Caleb Cushing's proposition
for granting 20,000 dollars to
Mr. Polk's Massachusetts vol
unteers has been debated but
no decision had.

Cush
ings
resolu
tion }
Gen
Court }

Petition for rail road
grants are coming from va
rious parts of the State
for roads [—] in some interiors where if the roads
could be constructed, the whole
profits would not keep them
in repair. This hasty zeal
will not long continue to de
ceive the industrious and
economical farmers of the coun
try, who will find that none
but the great arteries of trade

Rail
road
peti
tions }

Jany
23 can be supported and afford a profit. All short routes for the accommodation of a few interior towns, must of course be short-lived.

Re marks }
Bout well's resolu
tion } In the House of representative Mr Boutwell of Groton, has in traduced a resolve for expressing the thanks of the Legislature to Gen. Taylor and the men under his command, for their brave fighting in Mexico. If he possesses a discerning mind, he can have little expectation of the success of his resolution. The Legislature no doubt are gratified that Americans in [] proper discipline still makes good soldiers; and they are ready to thank the general and his men for sustaining that character; but it is hardly to be supposed, that they will prefer thanks to invading troops, when right and justice are disregarded by those who order the invasion, with a view of conquest, of territory, to satisfy their cupidity or ambition. Mr Boutwell may

Re marks }
on }

Jany 23 may have other views—he may wish for a list of the yeas and nays on the question, for future reference in the cause of democracy.

24 Sunday. Morn fair, & wind SW. and day generally fair air moderate.

25 Monday. Fair morn, wind N.W. and the day clear.

Mr Cushing's speech } I have just perused the Speech of Mr. Cushing on the Bill for granting 20,000 dollars as a bounty for those volunteers of the Massachusetts regiment, called for by Mr Polk. Of Mr Cushing's talent as a public speaker, I have heretofore entertained a favorable impression But in this speech I am compelled to say, that I have been unable to perceive one solid argument in support of the bill; and indeed it does not rise to the dignity of ingenious sophistry to which we supposed him capable.

Jany
25

Riot }
ed }

After attempting to show that Mr Polk's regiment is a part of the Massachusetts militia, which, by the by, has no bearing on the question, Mr Cushing becomes riotous. Here him: "Thinking the war unjust, do you therefore insist that these, your own men, shall die, not in the battle field, but of disease? Is this the humanity, this the conscience of Massachusetts? Will you by refusing to send them forth duly equipped, voluntarily, of malice aforethought, decide to kill them yourselves by the slow, but not less sure death of exposure in the camp or on the march?" (Mr Cushing foresees the fate of his poor fellows.) "I say, that for you to act on such a motion, to wreak on your militia your condemnation of the Federal Government, would be monstrous, horrible! No, you will not do this, you will instead adopt the only other course, consistent

Jany
25

with honor, with humanity,
with good conscience You
will [] our troops. Those troops
are your own militia, your own
children, organized by our own
Adjutant General, according to your
own statutes, commissioned by your
own Governor, marching under the
banner of the Commonwealth. You
will not of predetermined purpose
send them to the field to suffer and
die of imperfect equipment; but
if conscience forbids you to equip
them, it forbids you still more
loudly to permit them to march
to the shores of the Gulf or the banks
of the Rio Grand. Disband them,
disband them in Gods name; []
is let Massachusetts nullify at
once a thousand times, than man
ifest his conscience by the volun
tary and purposed sacrifice of her
brave Militia!"
In this rhapsody Mr Cushing
doubtless had his views, and
the galleries of the house were
filled with patriots of the pure
order. Like

Jany
25

A [] }
ile }

Like Sir Knight in Hudabras
 “When civil dungeon first grew high
 And men fell out they knew not why
 When hard words, jealousies and fears,
 Set folks together by the ears
 And made them fight like mad or drunk
 For Dame Religion as for punk;
 whose honesty they all durst swear for
 Though not a man of them knew wherefore
 When Gospel trumpeters surrounded
 With long ear’d rout, to battle sounded,
 And pulpit drum ecclesiastic,
 Was beat with fist, instead of a stick;
 Then did Sir Knight abandon dwelling
And out he rode a colonelling.⁷
 Since Sir Knight delivered his
 speech, he has been elected Colonel
 of Mr Polk’s regiment of Massa
 chusetts “own children” and the
 the malaria of Mexico, and the
 desperate fighting looked for
 “under the walls of Vera Cruz or
San Luis.” His men he knows, are not soldiers
 they may be [] in camp, and feeble
 in battle & headless of Sir Knight’s orders.

⁷ From Samuel Butler’s *Hudibras*, Canto 1.

Jany
26

The }
Army }

Tuesday. Morn cloudy and
wind NE the day cloudy
snow at night.

The small progress of our forces in Mexico is a puzzle to democracy, for long before this day, they believed that our volunteers would be walking the halls of Montezuma. Nor did it occur to their minds, that methodical advances and supplies of provisions &c were necessary for an invasion of an enemy's country. A few rifle hunters from the western states were to complete the task at a blow. Mr Polks Liet. General is now to introduce a new system of movement, ~~one~~ the experienced tactics of Generals Scott & Taylor to be laid aside, and the art of war as taught in the West point school to be abandoned, for utopian scheme which are to kill off an enemy "two at a blow" balloon ascensions to be substituted for bomb batteries, and the old doctrine [] revised & corrected. Freely

Jany
26
March
of im
prove
ment

Freely we are on the march to improvement, and why should the old art of war remain in the rear? Cotton gun-powder will soon come into vogue, and then the southern states will be able to blow up all opposition to their "institutions" sky high This mode of improvement is to continue, if we can balance our Visionaries until law, morality, & religion are cast over among the rubbish of antiquity." to be replaced by the perfect ability of man now [] ed in rapid stride within the United States; one in many instances, where science is the best known to the people at large, and genius is not crossed by "musty rules" of the schools Wednesday Morn thickly cloudy, wind W. but soon fair, and so continued through the day with partly sharp air. Esqr Henry & wife arrived.

27

Jany 28
The Army }
Slow progress }

Thursday Morn fair, wind SW and fair day and very clear.
From the proceedings of Congress it appears that the Mexican War drags rather slowly; the volunteering spirit is much abated and Mr Polks "favorable season" is fast passing off. Another campaign under the rays of a Mexican sun, will pave other ground than the vally of Rio Grand, with the bones of our fated volunteers. Our Massachusetts regiment, even with Mr Cushings 20,000 dollars bounty, will not fail of adding their perfection to the extent of the pavement.
We do not say that men coming from the vicinity of Bunker Hill monument will be imtimidated by such reflection; but we think it behooves Mr Polk to

Jany 28 to transport them as soon as possible, to the fields of Mexico where they will meet other scenes to call their attention, ill fitted to reflections of this kind.

29 Friday. Cloudy morn, wind NW; day cloudy some snow

Mass Regi ment } The Boston Journal announces that Caleb Cushing of Newbur ryport has accepted the com mand of the Massachusetts Vol unteers, with the rank of Colo nel, the other Field officers are, Isaac H Wright to Lt. Colonel (of Boston), and Edward W. Abbott of Andover, Major

Field officers } The Gentlemen may possess the the requisite Ambition for their [] or they may find themselves mis placed in the tented field.

The regiment consists of 10 companies each under a Capt & 3 detachments, elected by the men

Jany
29
Men
young
& igno
rant of
war
[]

enlisted for & during the war
with Mexico; and consists
of young men who have
come upon the stage since
the close of the war of 1812;
and of course know nothing
of the hardships & dangers
of a campaign; And dazzled
with military show now may be
home and friends with ap
parent cheerfulness. But on
disembarking in Mexico
new scenes of war to view, not so
thickly [] with flowers as they
had anticipated. They march
to the camp, and post under the
iron hand of discipline, confined
to narrow limits, taught to
halt & march at the word of
command, and no one allowed
to entertain a thought {—}
but that of subordination and
implicit obedience to orders, no
easy lessons for men brought
up to unbound freedom to wild notion
of liberty & equality or taught in

Jany

29

Lessons}
of [] }
[] }

our democratic schools
under vociferous demagogues.
After having, in some degree,
become habituated to the discipline of
the camp, with the modes of cook
ing their provisions, washing their
clothes, and lodging upon the ground
and keeping free from vermin
see these volunteers on the march
through rain, & wind, midleg deep
in our arid plains, where not
ever a drop of water can be gath
ered or where burning suns and
arid deaths descend." and who
among them will fail to turn
his eyes to his former home, and
sigh at the turn of his enlistment.
Will the pleasure of killing off Mex
icans compensate for such hard
ships?
Some of these volunteers doubtless
are harmless young men who with
out reflection took the bated
hook: Those demand our commu
ication, while others of different
character, can learn only by sad
experience.

- Jany 30 Saturday. Morn thinly cloudy, wind N.W. some rain and snow last night. Day partially fair.
- Bill for vol
unteer
bounty
in de
bate } The Bill for the grant of 20 thousand dollars to the Massachusetts volunteers, was under debate on the 25th instant, in the House; but I think it is time to put it at rest by yeas or nays. by a decisive negative. This day soon being made probably Mr Polk would order the regiment to the Rio Grand to commence its discipline and prepare it for killing Mexi cans for daring to defend their liberty and property. If Col. Cushing & his officers are to earn glory in such service, we readily award them all that honor, without grudging the boon.
- 31 Sunday. Morn fair, and wind W; thin clouds during the day; Robert B Williams, one of Arthurs surveying corps on the Plattsburg []

Jany rail road, arrived here this
 31 day He crossed the lake on
 the ice to Burlington where
 he left the other part of the corps
 to finish some further work

February 1847.

1.

The }
 County }
 Bill }
 defeated

Monday Morn cloudy
 wind N; air cold; the
 day continued cloudy~
 The Volunteer bounty Bill.
 was refused a third reading
 in our hose of representative
 on Thursday the 28th instant, by
 yeas 47, nays 244 191. Massa
 chusetts is hardly ready to offer
 a bounty on Mexican scalps,
 The state is ready to contribute
millions for defence, but not a
cent for tribute on moccasins.
 If Mr Polk's volunteers are called
 to the field without sufficient pay
 and equipments, he and his
 party must see to the error.

Feby
1
Mr Cushing's re
signation}

Among a free people who regard the rights of man, an unjust war will never be popular nor successful.
Mr Cushing member of the house from Newburyport, having been commissioned Col. of the regiment of volunteers made an impressive address to the house & resigned his seat. Every eye was turned upon him. They saw with regret, one whose ambition had overcome his prudence, and which is a worthy cause, would have excited respect. To a brilliant mind, they saw united a restless spirit which generally leads to disappointment and remorse. If successful in acquiring military form, they saw it would end in a bubble, and the disgrace of his country in a war illegally waged for the conquest of a neighboring

Re
marks
on

Feel
ings
of the
house

Feby republic, contending for its
 1 rights & liberty.
 on } The Colonel has now entered up
 the } on a career novel to himself, and
 occa } and it remains to be seen whe-
 sion } ther experience will teach him
 that he has chosen one that is suited
 to his ambition and his taste
 should he be unfortunate let him
 remember that his position was
 chosen by himself and []
 ated by his country or friends
 2 Tuesday. Morn cloudy, wind
 SW, and some snow fell, the
 day continued cloudy~
 The } Mr Polk's volunteer regiment
 volun } from this state, still remains
 teer } at Boston, but if not soon
 Reg } embarked for Mexico, the
 iment } men may become mutinous
 and discretion may prevail
 Should these [] & severe
 punishments be resorted to, the
 officers could soon find that men
 to whom they are indebted for their
 promotion, are not be unnec-
 cessity reduced to obedience. In

- | | |
|---|--|
| Feby
2
Want of
Subordi
nation | In a newly raised crops
of this description the officers
will never be able to introduce
that subordination and ready
obedience of orders essential
in an army, and without
which, the men are but []
<u>Wednesday.</u> Morn cloudy
& rainy, with NW. wind; then
day the same, rain considerable |
| 3 | |
| Gen.
Taylors
letter on
further
opera
tion
in Mexi
co | A Letter from Gen. Taylor
of the 9 th of November 1846
to a friend (Said to be Gen. George
of New-York) after detailing his
movements to Monterey & and
Saltillo, and expressing his opinions
of penetrating the country to the
City of Mexico, by the route of
the latter, he recommends to our
Government, to take possession of
of the time we would accept
by a negotiation extending from
the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific oce
an, at the same time closely block
adding the coast, on both waters,
and to act on the defensive. |

- Feby
3
A line }
propos-
ed }
- The line he proposes, would
be some distance south of the
mouth of Rio Grand, [] all on this
side of the Sierra Madre, and
will include six or seven states
or provinces of Mexico.
- Pu- }
ny }
- Will this conquest satisfy the ra-
pacity of Mr Polk & his party? No
thing short of the City of Mexico
was their signal design, and
this conquest was to have been
the work of only a few months
with a force principally of volun-
teers from our western & southern
wilds. If Gen. Taylor's plan be
adopted & the Mexicans submit to
the demarcation, still thousands of
our forces will strew the ground
with their bones, when the sun
powers his direct rays upon them
Two things may be taught by this
war: 1st That we are not so strong
a military nation as we had sup-
posed: 2. That when an invasion
of a neighboring country is attempted,
a competent regular force must
be prepared, previous to the attempt
- Les- }
sons- }
taught }

Feby

3

Our
proper
imple
ments

Remarks
on Gen
Taylors
Letters

These two lessons may teach us also that in a new country the ax and pruning hook are the proper implements for a people extending their settlements over a wide region, and should not be laid aside for the rifle & tomahawk.

From Gen. Taylors letter it appears he had relinquished their plan of further invasion of Mexico by the Sultillo routes because of the difficulty of carrying provisions on so long a route, and the want of a sufficient force; the distance from the Rio Grand bay to Sultillo being 200 miles and from the latter to ~~Mexico~~ San Luis Potosi City 360 miles. and the country from Sultillo to San Luis Potosi a barren one, and almost without water. If he takes the sea coast route it will be exceedingly disastrous to his troops in the hot season. all these difficulties should,

Feby
3

Demō
cracy
heed
less

and would have been foreseen
by a wise administration.
But democracy takes no time
for reflection, but dashes on
regardless of consequences and
its art of war is not less ab-
surd than its politics, both
taking no lesson from experience
or long established rules:
It has been stat[e]d that Gen Taylor
will retire from the Army on the
arrival of Gen. Scott. If this happens
it will be inferred that he is un-
willing to act as a second; But
perhaps his retirement may be
from other causes: already he is
considered that his operation have
not met the entire approbation
of Mr Polk, and the General may
deem the change of command
convenient opportunity to extra-
cate himself from the dictation
of an incompetent source at the
Capitol. At any rate the con-
quest of Mexico is not so easy a task
as was predicted by our voided democracy.

Feby 4 River broke up	W. and cold air. Last night the river broke up with a considerable use of water, from the thaw of yester day. the day fair~
Breach in the Rail road	The rain of yesterday we are in has caused a breach on the rail way in Hatfield, An embank ment giving way. Such acci dents show a want of fore sight in the Engineer. Similar accidents I fear will occur in the part of the road entirely of our village. When difficult ravines are seen crossed by the road.
5	<u>Friday.</u> Morn fair, wind N.E. and the day fair.
Rut land rial road	<u>Vermont Rutland Rail road.</u> This road, to extend from Bur lington southerly to Otter Creek, and thence up the creek to Rutland and over Mt. Holly and down the val ley of Black river to Bellows-falls, is about to be commenced; contracts

Feby
5

for the greatest part of the route having been made.
The whole work will probably cost upwards of two millions of dollars, and as the Capitalist of Boston have enlisted on the more northerly route from Burlington to Connecticut river, I apprehend that the people of the interior of the Country will find it difficult to raise the necessary sum though it is said the stock is taken up. The route has one difficult point to encounter: Viz at Mount Holly;

Re
marks
on

and whether the road can be carried over it with a practicable grade, is a question and some appropriate machinery may be necessary to carry up the trains; the other parts of the route I believe will require no high grades. But both routes will be rivals for the Boston trade, which will lessen the value of each. When the Plattsburgh & Ogdensburgh road is completed a vast trade will be opened to the NW. and perhaps

Mt
Holly

Feby
5
Multi
placation
of Rail
Roads,
effects
of

both routes cross Vermont
may force sufficient business
to render them profitable. But
in general the multiplication
of rail roads, between any two
great marts, is unfavorable~
The most eligible route will rival
the others, and alone find sup
port and which of the two
routes from Burlington will
be fortunate one must be de
termined by experience.
The whole length from Burlington
to Bellows-falls, by the Rutland
route, I estimate at about 120 miles
If then the Central route by Mont
peliar, shall become the main
artery for the Boston trade, the
Rutland route can hardly be
sustained if constructed. The
route it is true, passes through
a valuable section of Vermont
which contains a considerable pop
ulation; but can ill afford
to defray the cost of the road
without strong aid from Boston.

Feby
6
Coast
sur
vey }

Saturday Morn fair, wind
NE, day fair
Elizabeth, sat out for Halifax
with her brother & little Charles
Received a Report from the
superintendant of the Sea Coast
survey, for the year ending No
vember 1846. The Report fre
quently mentions my friend
Charles O. Boutelle, an assistant
to Mr Bache, and it appears
he had been on the Coast of the
Carolinas, part of the time and
otherwise employed in import
ant services in the Survey.
From the ready method of his
long mathematical calculations, his
knowledge in the use of instruments
and of practical astronomy, and
his thorough experience I think my
friend Boutelle must be in im
portant assistant to Mr Bache
The Report contains several
sketch maps of the Survey

Feby <hr/> 7 8 Dam age by rain	<p><u>Sunday</u> Morn fair, and NE and day fair Snow, at this time, of small depth</p> <p><u>Monday</u>. Morn partially fair, wind NW and day fair.</p> <p>We hear of considerable damage from the late rain & wind, which were not very severe at this place. What would be the damage sustained by one of the <u>older times storms!</u> Our young people have no adequate conceptions of their destructive effects.</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u>. Morn fair, wind variable from S.W. to N.E.; the day was fair~</p> <p>The objects & designs of the war with Mexico are dayly becoming more obvious. In the Congress [] of representative, Feby 2d, Mr Sevier⁸ said, "The President and the Government were willing to make peace</p>
9 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 10px;">The</div> <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">War</div>	

⁸ Ambrose Hundley Sevier (1801-1848) was a Democratic Senator from Arkansas. He resigned from the Senate in 1848 to become Ambassador to Mexico and negotiate the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Feby
9

Design
of the
War }

Bold
ness }

New
states }

if Mexico would give us in
demnity for the war, or New-
Mexico and Upper California.
 But the discerning mind need
 ed not this ungrounded alterc
 ation, to convince it of the terpi
 tude of the war: for the Pres
 idents order to Gen. Taylor to march from
 the Nueces to the Rio Grand was
 sufficient to show the design~
 Perhaps a war more base &
 unjust, never was waged by a civ
 ilized nation. Our crazy demo
 cracy is at the [], and Mr
 Polk is the agent to carry it out.
 The millions of cost, may, at
 length, "set the people to rights."
 But new states will be annexed
 to the Union, provided they consent
 to tolerate slavery; and a portion
 of northern democracy are as
 regardless of the rights of man
 as they are ignorant of repub
 licanism and wise government.
 Once let the people open their eyes to
 this sentiment, and these demagogues would []

Feby
9

Feder
alists }

and the people once more return to the respectable standing they sustained under Washington and his co-patriots, before the disorganizing principles gained the ascendancy within our Union.

First in proportion to our aberration from the principles of Washingtonian federalism, has been our departure from prosperity [] and happiness. This aberration produced the war of 1812, and now that with Mexico, and will continue so to operate, until the people shall open their eyes to the demagogues who have & still disturb a wise system of Government. These, said Washington have been the curse of the Country.
and what a pity it is, that they
are not made to become the evil?

At the time of our revolution and of the formation of our federal government, honest and able men were esteemed; but

Feby
9

since those days men of loose principles & mediocrity of talents have arisen who finding that one horrible course was no path to promotion, they have endeavored to succeed by delusion and in fact, have [——] [] the minds of the common people, and have succeeded in producing a belief that talents & worth are the elements of aristocracy; and that no eminent man should not be intrusted with a high office.

There [] [] for 30 years past, has been descending in the scale of intellect, and the President except in one or two instances, has been selected for his known subserviency to party, rather than for his elevated talents & probity.

Who will be our next President is extremely uncertain; he may be James K. Polk, but his [] party are not very faithful to their leaders; he may be [] from obscurity & placed on the white horse. To conduct

Feby
9

Affairs of the nation under
the dictation of his party
always committing his favorites

In his appointments & continually avoiding northern men.
We have a Webster, a Clay, a M'Lean & others, who would be [] to the Country; but their talents & probity will preclude them from high station so long as democracy has the []

The present democratic party may be demolished by one of their whirlwinds; but another will arise, not less heterogeneous and thus our government will forever be kept in a turmoil, and may end in anomaly; and all this under a future of reform God grant that we may escape the furious hurricane that threatens us.

10

Wednesday Morn cloudy with some snow, and wind N.
the day continued cloudy.

Feby
10
vol. 4
Exploring
expe
dition

Exploring Voyage Vol. 4th

This Vol. includes the voyage from Honolulu to the Oregon territory, with the various surveys of the coast and interior: the loss of the Peacock and of the vessels of the Squadron, off the mouth of the Columbia, and their departure for the bay of San Francisco on the west coast of America.

On the voyage from Honolulu the Island of Hawaii was visited and described, and several other islands.

The Oregon country is partly fed by [], with the Hudson Bay settlers, the missionary stations and the manners & customs of the Indians, with the Salmon fishings &c. The monstrous size of the [] trees [—][—] is noted. Some which had fallen & measured 235 in length one at the height of 10 feet from the roots was 35 but in circumference 150 feet of straight shaft. Some are said to be 300 feet in height.

Feby Thursday Morn fair, wind
 11 NW and fair day.
 We have now but a small
 depth of snow, but the roads
 are so covered with ice, that the
 sleighing continues tolerably good.
 The session of Congress is
 now drawing to a close, and
 what further measures that bo
 dy will adopt for carrying on
 Mr Polk's war we know not.
 The ten new regiments of regu
 lars are to be enlisted and dis
 ciplined for the service, and this
 is a slow process, for which de
 mocracy has not []: and
 Col. Cushings volunteers still re
 main at Boston, we suppose
 under drill in stove warmed
 apartments. Would not be will
 to try their legs at least on Bos
 ton common? But the poor
 fellows are in "drilling
 & trinkets," which Massachusetts
 declines furnishing by a bounty of
 20,000 dollars; and it is said the
 companies are not filled up to the

Congress }
 Session }

Feby
11

Vol
unteers
in
Mex
ico

amount required by Mr Polk.
 Three years volunteers now with
 Gen. Taylor are near the close of their
 term of service, and my word for it
 they are looking towards their friends
 and homes, and will be willing
 to return to their proper employ
 ments, with chastened zeal for
 military service. Mr Polks "favor
able time" is fast wearing away
 and the Mexican malaria is
 advancing to afford its aid to
 the Mexicans. What a force is
 a volunteer war, and, especially
 one of invasion!
 But, suppose Mr Polk conquers
 Mexico, will he be able to hold it
 in subjection without a standing
 army of at least 20,000 men?
 Our democrats were not aware
 of this; They supposed the Mexi
 cans would grasp seize the first opportu
 nity to embrace seize our liberty & equality
 and rejoice at the change of
 condition. Today we are the
 "most enlightened nation in the world"
 what a pity we have not [] a
 war with Great Britain at the same
 time?

- Feby Elizabeth returned about
11 sun set from Halifax with
 her little Charles, by stage
 to Greenfield.
- 12 Friday Morn fair wind
 SW. and day fair
- Scien-
tific
exhi-
bition } An Exhibition to be at our Town
 Hall this Evening by W.F. Somerby
 and others on the nature of the
 Magnetic Telegraph, with other
 scientific []
 Two telegraphs placed in different parts of the House will be
 made to write before the audience
 another whole operation explained.
 Many other curious experiments to be preformed.
 One of the gentlemen brought
 to my room, the magnetic telegraph
 and exhibited its operation. The
 machine is small, not exceeding
 in bulk some of the instruments
 of the same nature in our academy. Gun powder action to be
 exploded & explained, and the
 laws of gravity suspended by electricity.

- Feby 12 Tickets 12 ½ cents. The whole will no doubt be worthy of the attention of the philosophic student, since some of the experiments are not found in our books.
- Re marks } on This mode of instruction I do not esteem the least, since it is apt to lead to superficial views, from the want of an elementary course of discipline
- 13 Saturday. Morn fair, wind NW, but most of the day proved cloudy~ My Son Arthur arrived in this evening, having been absent 5 Months, an 5 days, on the survey of the Plattsburgh rail road. with Mr. Hayward.
- 14 Sunday. Morn cloudy wind W; the day partially fair, and pretty cold
- 15 Monday Morn cloudy, wind SW but most of the day fair with scattering clouds.
- My son return }

Feby
15
My
sons
appoint
ment
& plan }

My son Arthur having recd
an appointment as Engineer on the
Burlington & Rutland Rail
road to Bellows falls on the
Connecticut, is about to remove
his family to Burlington to take
up their residence while he is
employed on the road, his pay
about 1500 dollars per year—his
section about 51 miles.

Mr Wm B. Gilbert, who has much
the surveys on the route, is the
principal Engineer. Of the suc
cess of the road I have expressed
some doubts, but I understand
that capitalists in Boston have
become engaged in the enterprise
and this may ensure the com
pletion of the work.
To be deprived of my connections
at my age, is depressing to my
feelings, but I must submit
to circumstance.
If my friends part with me with
out regret, I am unable to assign
the

Feby
15

cause, for I have endeavored to promote their happiness & prosperity; nor do I doubt that there are those who are friendly and would learn with my inspiration. At no time are such men wanted than when old age has rendered the animal machine feeble and helpless; then the labor of friendship should be pured in to render the aged as comfortable as possible, during their short [] While I lament this separation of our family I would not [] objections to my sons course in business important to his welfare, but only regret the necessity which presume it. His taste for the study of civil Engineering has been ardent, and his practice for several years past has rendered him capable of one

per

fect service to the public; and
 my hope is that he may rend
 er forth faithful service in that
 which he is now engaged.
 16 Wednesday. Morn windy, wind
 N and day cloudy.
 This day gave deed to my Son
 Arthur of my harvested lots & all
 buildings at the south part of Deer
 field street; banded south land
 Rufus Sexton & Mr Wait; and at
 sometime took a Deed from said
 Arthur of some undirected part of
 his home lot & buildings, bounded south
 on Dr Joseph Goodhue & the [] on
 which I now reside; and by a bond
 [] myself to [] to his said
 one half of the lot on his payment
 to me thirteen hundred dollars.
 He on the same day conveyed
 my old lot to John Forbes
 part of the payment secured by a
 mortgage from said Forbes on said lot.
 Miss Bagley, one of the Cushing corps
 gave me a call—an intelligent Lady.

Trans
 fers of
 land
 &c

Miss
 Bagley

Feby
17
(1857)

Exhi
bition }

Mr
Somer
by }

Wednesday. Morn cloudy
wind N. : Some snow last night
the day mostly fair
The exhibition which was to
have been made at our Town Hall
on the 12th instant (as mentioned on
page 86) took place last night, with
a pretty full audience; the expe
riments I am informed were cu
rious & satisfactory. The Corps is
to perform at Greenfield this even
ing, a second time.
Thus our young men have an easy
and cheap method of obtaining a sma
tering of philosophy. But as says
the Poet "Seek science in her coy abode"
as a preferable method. Such ex
periments are of great use to the
methodical student, but generally
lost on the multitude who can
not be made learned.
Mr Somerby, the principal of the
courses made me a call—appear sci
entific and agreeable- Resides in
Boston or Newburyport. Success
to the progress of useful science!

Feby
18

Depart
ure of
my son
& family

Re
marks
on

Thursday. Morn fair wind
N.E., day fair and wind to S.W
This day about 10 clock,
my son Arthur, his wife Eliza
beth and their little Charles took
the rail road cars for Greenfield
on their journey to Burlington
Vt., there to reside during his
employment on the Rail road
from Burlington to Rutland &
thence to Bellows falls. From
Greenfield they proceed in a
stage Coach by Brattleborogh.
I have expressed my sensations on
this separation of our family
(on page 89) and can only add,
my ardent wishes for the prosperity
and happiness of my departed
connections.
The business in which my son
is engaged, is arduous and requires
assiduous application; but it
seems exactly suited to his taste
and habits which are of the
"go a head sort" and few I believe

- Feby 18 possess more energy in prosecuting a work one commended a trait in the character of an Engineer, if it be regulated by due consideration, of great importance The route of the road lies through a country inhabited principally by New England people, whose manners & customs are of the same cast, and I trust, very different from the people of Illinois where my son was several years employed in his profession.
- 19 Friday. Morn cloudy wind
N. PM Snow fell
- 20 Saturday Morn cloudy, wind N.E. and day cloudy
- 21 Sunday Morn cloudy with snow & N wind; the day continued much the same.
- 22 Monday Cloudy morn, wind NE. Snow at yesterday & last night 4 or 5 inches. The day proved snowy most of the time.

Feby
22

Exploring
voyage
Vol. 5

Re
marks
on

Exploring Expedition Vol. 5 & last.

This Vol. contains the transactions on the Columbia river, in Oregon, the arrival at St. Franciscan in upper California, & transactions thence; the return to the Pacific Islands, then to Mairella, Singapoor in Malasia and thence round the Cape of Good home, touching at St Helena, to New York City, June 10th 1842.

The most important discovery of Land is the southern Continent which is now established, I think, with certainty. Surveys have been made of several groups of Islands, and their condition detailed beyond what were before known; and on the whole I think, the Expedition has been useful & honorable to our Country.

The separate Reports of the Scientific corps, it is hoped, will be printed to the public in full, as they will be the most interesting to the men of science.

The work as written by the Commander, Charles Wilkes USN is minute in detail; and were I to point at any faults, I should

Feby
22

say, he sometimes dwells too much upon non important items, which may be { } common place re ~~marks~~ lation, not altogether interesting to men of science. But as the work is intended for general perusal, perhaps those will not be deemed defects. The plates & wood cuts are numerous, but rather too delicate & soft for old eyes; and in the former the titles are so indistinct that they cannot be read without a magnifier—A fault now become common with Engineers. Why thus attempt to render obscure what may be made plain? I do not see. The voyage commenced in 1838 and ended in 1842, just about a century after that of Lord An son of England. On a perusal of the two voyages, the ~~curious~~ critical observ er will notice the improvement that have been made in the Navigation of Ships during the past century. Prior to that period no certain me thods of determining Longitude was pra cticed and dead reckoning was relied on but

Feby
22

but always extremely uncertain,
and the ships place doubtful.
The various modes of determining
longitude by celestial observations
and by chronometers has re-
moved the uncertainty; and
the outline of the land in
all parts of the globe, is now
ascertained with an accuracy
hardly anticipated a century
ago, and the health of the
crews rendered as same as a
journey on land. Other islands
may yet be discovered on the
wide ocean, but the principal
groups, it is believed, have been
visited and then positions as
signed on the map of the world.
It now remains to diffuse the
arts, sciences and civilization
through all parts of the earth
and to render man worthy of
the dignity of human beings.

23
Tuesday Morn fair, wind N.E
the snow now deeper than
at any time during the winter
Day fair throughout.

Feby
24

The
War
at bay}

Wednesday. Morn fair, wind
N.E., cold air and clear day.
When President Polk ordered Gen.
Taylor to advance into the Mexican
territory and commence a war
for conquering the country, what
democrat doubted that the
march to the city of Mexico would
be effected within a few months
and the nation conquered at a
stroke, by a small army of
militia volunteers? The war now
seems to be quiescent; The first
volunteers have nearly served out
their time of service, new corps are to push
on to take their places, and ten
new regiments of regulars are
to organized & enlisted for the service.
In short the war seems just com
menced, and our wild war hawks
may learn from this, that we
are not quite so ready for war as
they had supposed. The blind con
fidence entertained of success, is to be
explained only on the ignorance of
of a majority of ~~the~~ our people, of military op
erations, & the art of war.

Feby
25

our
volun-
teers}

A
mu
tiny}

Thursday. Morn cloudy, wind
NE and some snow falling. Be-
tween 9 and 10 sun broke out
and the day fair

Eight companies of Col. Cushing's
volunteer regiment have embarked
in Boston harbor, for Mexico, the
2 others, not being in readiness, re-
main under command of Major
Abbott. A specimen of mutiny
was whether by the Irish company
Boston embarking, the men refused
to go on board until they had re-
ceived the advanced pay, which they
alleged had been promised and they
returned, in a body to their barracks.
A detachment was sent to enforce
obedience, and through the address
of Col. Cushing, they consented to em-
bark. From this specimen of in-
subordination, Col. Cushing & his of-
ficers, may see the difficulties
they have to encounter in com-
manding volunteers; and the my-
stery is, that one so well informed
as is the Colonel, that he should
be willing to be placed at the head
He will probably [] his folly

Feby
 25
 Lack
 discip
 line of
 volunteers } when the men are put to the
 rigid duties of the camp, and
 probably appreciate the remark of
Washington that no man who re
 gards his home will risk his
 reputation in the command of
 such troops. A Court martial
 it appears said has been ordered on board
 one of the vessels, for the trial of sever
 al of the offenders, but it must
 be cautious of inflicting severe
 punishment, since the officers
 depend on the men for their
 places. They will, no doubt, soon
 see the justness of the remark of
 Genl. Mercer of the Revolution. That
giving the men the choice of their
officers, will forever mar the
discipline of armies." Our volun
 teer officers, seem not to have
 attended to this fact. Our notice
 of military discipline have been
 imbibed from the show of mil
 itia parades, as trifling as use
 less. The idea that every able bo
 died man is a soldier, must be relinquished
 or a standing force kept up in time
 of peace. This however I think

Court
 marti
 al on
 board }

Ef
 fects
 of a
 choice
 of offi
 cers }

Feby
25

Re
fec
tions

might be avoided by adopting a wise system of militia discipline, very different from the present system, which is in fact, but a show, that bewilders rather than instructs.
If Col. Cushing's regiment reaches Mexico, without further mutiny he will be fortunate, but many of his men will turn their long ing eyes to their homes before the war closes, and all will find that their path of duty is not strewed with roses. My pity is excited when I view them marching under the rays of a vertical sun, and struggling with the mala ria of Mexico. Poor fellows! How little did they anticipate such scenes and rifled on the number that will form the ground with their bones in a war waged for the conquest of a neighboring country fighting in defense of its liberty and rights.~

Last evening we people had a meeting and started a subscription for the relief of the starving

- Feby
25 people of Ireland from whom we have the most thrilling a counts in the papers. The sub scription will be money & Indian corn to be forwarded by rail road to Boston where a committee is appointed to receive whatever is contributed, and arrangements made to ship it to Ireland with all possible speed. The famine is supposed to be owing to the loss of the potato crop which has been the chief support of the poor of Ireland. Other parts of Europe are said to be suffering from the same cause, particularly Scotland. It now becomes the duty of all the hands of humanity to contribute their mite. Great numbers it is said have already famished & died, & probably the number will be horri bly increased before supplies can be obtained.
- 26 Friday. Morn fair, wind NE & cold air, and a fair day fol lowed. Yesterday died Zenus Hawks of this town
- 27 Saturday Morn cloudy, wind N.E. with considerable snow

Feby 27

during the day. Winter now puts on its dreary aspect and promises to continue some time. The famishing condition of the poor in Ireland & Scotland a given in our papers cannot fail to excite the sympathy of every humane man in our country, and we are gratified to learn that our town are now existing the means of affording relief by subscription of money or bread stuffs to be forwarded to a Committee in Boston who are making arrangements for shipping the relief to the proper ports for delivery. The distance across the Atlantic is great, and while we contribute our miles we are fearful they may not arrive [] to save the lives of the sufferers. But if fleets of steam ships could be loaded in all of our ports one fort night would carry

Feby carry them to the famishing
 27 lands and save many from
 impending death. In such an
 employment what a contrast is
 presented to the war which
 democracy has waged against Mexi-
 co, for the purpose of plundering &
 possessing her nations territory!

28 Sunday. Morn cloudy, wind W,
 last night some rain; day cloudy
 but sun occasionally seen and
 air cold.

March

1

An Monday Morn fair, wind
 nual } NW, and day particularly fair & cold
 meet } Our annual meeting for choice
 ing } of town officers & the regulation
 of its affairs the ensuing year.
 In these meetings the business
 is generally conducted without
 much disorder, excepting when
 the democratic spirit becomes
 wild, in which case disorder
 appears, especially in the towns
 where the parties are nearly equal

March 1 Engineering to be taught in the Cambridge Universi ty	<p>A new and advanced department to be called the <u>Scientific School</u> at the University of Cambridge, in which engineering, working of metals, road making and practical sciences are to be taught. Students may enter the school in similar terms to those established to the law school. (<u>Says the newspapers</u>) Annual expense 1000 dollars.</p>
Re marks on	<p>A good mathematician may become a scientific Engineer without wading through the other studies of the University. These branches of science might be substituted for some others taught in the University and nothing essential lost to practical man.</p> <p>A University education is supposed to embrace all branches of knowledge; but its in fact is [] is only preparatory to the study of the professions found among us When the student, thus prepared, selects his profession he</p>

- March
 1
 Profes
 sional
 studies } he must concentrate his
 general knowledge to the prin
 cipal points of his profession
 and by an assiduous course
 of study, joined to practice, he
 may become eminent. Much
 however depends on a taste for
 his profession without which
 he will never excel.
- 2 Tuesday. Morn fair, wind W
 followed with a fair day & brisk
 cold air.~
 According the latest advices our
 army under Gen. Scott, was moving
 forward coast wise, to invest Vera
 Cruz, and carry it by seige~
 The distance from that place is stated
 at 200 miles from the City of Mex
 ico and the country broken and
 mountainous; and should Scott suc
 ceed, the latter city will still be
 beyond his grasp. In our revo
 lutionary war, the capture and
 possession of our principal sea-ports
 was but a small advance towards
 a conquest of the Country. Then containing about
 half the number of the present Mexicans

March
3

Embar-
cation
of our
troops
for Mexi-
co

Wednesday. Morn fair
wind S.W. and clear day
winter still in full vigor.
The whole of the Massachu-
setts regiment of volunteers has
embarked at Boston for some
port in Mexico, where prob-
ably it will arrive about the
commencement of the hot season.
If ordered to the siege of Vera
Cruz, and to service in that
clime during the hot season,
we think ~~but~~ but a small
portion will return to their
New England homes after
the war is ended.
The democratic spirit may have
induced the young men to engage
in the service, but how horri-
bly they will be disappointed
when the iron hand of discipline
is laid upon them and no
demagogues are found urging
them to the ballot boxes. With
the officers, the bubbly []
may have been the [] cause
but even they may find themselves []
placed in the [] fields of Mexico.

March

3

Design

of the

war

But for what purpose are
these troops jeopardizing their lives?
Not for the defense of their country
Not for the propagation of
liberty and the rights of man!
No! but for the base purpose of
conquest of a neighboring repub
lic. Impartial history will
present this outrage in all its
turpitude, and the present
nations of Europe will learn
how little reliance is to be placed
on our sense of justice & right.
But at the same time they will
perceive that the war was waged
by wild democracy, and depre
ciated by the true friends of the
country and by mankind at
large. A more happy dispo
sition, it is hoped, is now germi
nating in the old states of the
Union, especially in the north
ern section; and may all in the
Union once more return to the
tried principles of Washington and
his co-patriots, the only system that
can render us prosperous & honorable.

March
4
Congress
Session
close of }

The
War }

Thursday. Morn partially cloudy
wind NW day fair & clear
This Yesterday closed the session of
Congress and Mr Polk is left
to manage the war on his
own discretion by and with the
advice of Senator Benton, who, though
not elevated to the rank of Leut.
General, may be the Presidents
confidential counselor. But one
thing is clear, that neither he nor
Mr Polk, can no longer disguise the mo
tives of the war; for the people be
gin to perceive its turpitude, and the
cost may at length "set them to rights"
The war, however, may teach our
wild war hawks, that we are not
so powerful military nation as they
had supposed; and that war found
ed on injustice and rapacity, is
not to be sustained by a moral
people, and that the ax, the
plow, & other implements of agri
culture, are the proper weapons
for our backwoodsmen, instead of
the rifle & tomahawk.
Our General Court is still in
session and a multiplicity

of

March 4
Our Gen Court } business before it which may hold out the session to April if not later. I have regretted that a more expeditious mode of transacting business has not been adopted and I think this is practical. One fourth of a year for the transaction of the business of a state, like ours, is extravagant & calls for correction.
The Vermont Legislature accomplishes their annual business within about a month, and if we allow double that time for ours, one would suppose ample time would be given for the transactions of all important business in ours.

5 Friday. Morn fair wind
SW. and day fair
Newspaper reports say, a detachment of nearly 100 Kentucky cavalry, has been surprised and captured by a strong force of Mexican lancers: Among the Officers is Cassius M. Clay the noted Editor of the an Anti-Slavery paper in Kentucky. By those who have witnessed the singular

Lt. Clay }

March
5
His Som
merest }

and
folly }

summerset of Leut. Clay, his capture will hardly be considered a public loss. His volunteer service in a war to extending slavery, is too ridiculous to require a defense. His reasonings while editor of a paper, will not be strengthened by his opinions since he became a volunteer in Mr Polks war of invasion for the conquest of territory and the extension of slavery. We leave the Lieutenant in the hands of the Mexicans, who may teach him, that they have rights as well as ourselves; and that

[] of zeal, in the cause of anti-slavery, avail nothing, when a counter course is found in practice. Mr Clay [] [] retrain the character he has lost by his folly~

From the present aspect of the war, It appears that the Mexicans are determined to resist our invading forces, with their utmost energy.

They may be beaten in general

March engagements and so were we
5 in the early part of our war
 of independence; but time and
 experience taught us how to
 fight and the same process
 may bring into the field
 troops of equal prowess.
 Too late then, we may
 regret that we have taught
 them their strength & con
 verted them to a military na
 tion which may remem
 ber the wrongs we have []
 upon them.

6 Saturday. Morn fair, wind
 N, and day fair & partly clear

7 Sunday. Morn cloudy, wind
 W. the day continued cloudy
 with some fog on the hills
 and a complete coat of snow
 on the Ground. Some rain PM.
 The papers gave us gratifying ac
 counts of the efforts making for the
 relief of the starving people of Ireland & Scotland

- March 7 What a contrast between this and the war spirit which democracy has roused against the Mexicans, because they are endeavoring to defend their country against our rapacity
- 8 Monday. Morn cloudy, wind S.W. Sun out before noon and day
Recd. a Letter from Elizabeth Arthurs wife dated at Middlebury March 2d, stating all to be well. Arthur having some 16 miles of survey to make about that place; they expect to remain there about three weeks, and then to take up residence at Burlington They arrived at Middlebury on Monday the 22d ultimate, kept sun day at Rutland. Arthur, she says, is very busily engaged on the survey.
- Lett er from friends } 9 Tuesday. Morn partially cloudy wind N.E. and the day continued nearly the same throughout.

- March Wednesday. Morn cloudy
10 wind S.W. PM. clear &
 thawing sun. Wrote a letter
 to Arthurs wife at Middle
 bury Vermont in answer to hers
 of the 2d instant.
- 11 Thursday. Morn fair, wind
 N.W. & cold; the day continued
 fair but rather cold; and some
 clouds at night.
- 12 Friday. Morn clear, wind
 S.W.; the day very clear, but
 [] much impression on the
 snow. Ten or 12 cars I am in
 formed left our rail road depot
 loaded with Cattle for the Brigh
 ton market.
- 13 Saturday. Morn partially
 cloudy wind N. P.M.
 fair and cold & wind N.E.
 We have a rumor that a
 battle has occurred near Sal
 tillo between Gen Taylor & Santa Anna

- March but no particulars have
13 been received. It may turn out
 a [] rumor, but it is not
 improbable, since the main force
 under Gen. Scott is operating on
 the coast against Vera Cruz.
 From the present aspect of
 the war it is clear that the Mex
 icans are far from being a
 conquered people; and with
 a permanent government and
 an adequate publick treasury
 the Mexicans would repel the
 invading force of Mr Polk and
 teach him & his party that
 a war of [] cannot be
 maintained by a moral people.
- 14 Sunday. Morn fair, wind N.
 and cold air. and the day
 fair tract the suns rays made
 any little impressions on the
 snow.
- 15 Monday. Morn fair wind SW
 and day generally very clear, but
 cold air
 Our rail road train passes

- March 15 four times per Day, and it is said conveys a considerable amount of property to Boston market, as well as passengers. Whether the road will be extended up the Connecticut from Green field is now a question of doubt. and depends on the construction of rail roads on other routes.
- Our
rail
road } The project for a rail road from Willimansett to Groats corner, seems now coming to a close, and a petition is now presented to the general court for one from Palmer through Belcher town Amherst, Sunderland to the Bridge across the Connecticut at the latter town. But will the people of those towns defray the expense; and what capitalist at a distance, will invest his money on that enterprise, mainly for the benefit of a few towns
- 16 Tuesday. Morn fair. wind SW and fair day, but cold.

March
16

Mr Polks "favorable season"
for prosecuting the war in
Mexico is now about closing,
and why has this occasion been
lost? The answer is ready. The
war was commenced without pre
paration; the volunteer plan
proved of little worth, and ex
perience has taught, that standing
regular troops can alone be relied on.
This every military man of
judgment, knew at the beginning
but whether regulars or volun
teers are employed in the wet
season the malaria of Mexi
co will probably make a
horrid sweep in their ranks;
and yet our inconsiderate young
men enter upon this service as
ignorant of their fates as they are
of the impulse of the war.

17

Wednesday Morn fair, wind W.
and fair day: Weather contin
ues cold and the snow
melts but slowly. Sleighing
pretty good.

March

17

The
Wea
ther}

The sun being so near the vernal equinox, it appears singular that the weather continues so cold. Compared with the temperature at the Autumnal equinox what a difference! But when we reflect that the land N of 30 or 40 degrees of Lat in the northern hemisphere is covered with snow and a cold atmosphere, the wonder ceases; once without the existence of internal heat in the earth, we might look for a longer continuance of the snowy canopy.

"Thus at thy potent nod effect & course
Walk hand in hand, accordant to thy laws"⁹

18

Thursday Morn fair, wind SW. PM cloudy.
Wrote a letter to Col. Bryant & Isabella (Chicopee falls).

19

Friday Morn broken clouds
wind NW afternoon fair
wind NE, Cold air

⁹ Erasmus Darwin. *The Temple of Nature*, Canto IV.

March
20

Saturday Morn fair

wind N.E. Afternoon cloudy
wind S.W.

Mr Polk's "favorable season"
for pushing his [] into
southern Mexico, is now nearly
closed as well as the terms of his
first volunteer corps. Former

Senator Benton been pro
moted to the rank of Liuet.

General with a carte blanch

would the "tardy" move

ments of Generals Scott and Tay

have tarnished our democrat

ic tactics. No! The experience

and profound strategy of the

Senator, untrammeled by

the former rules of war,

have enabled him [] []

are this time, to siege the Halls

of Montezuma & brought the

Mexicans to the most abject

terms. For any thing we

know, the Senator may may

pass the genius of a Conde

and who is more able to deserve

Sena
tor
Ben
ton

March
20 such recondite gratification than Mr Polk? But the Senator it appears, declines his appointment of Major General in the Army, since he cannot act under Generals Scott and Taylor as a subordinate or a [_____] indeed.
If the Senator possesses the proficient talents of a Commander it is a little singular that they have not been known by and the limits of Missouri until this day, when we had his own word for it, endorsed by Mr Polk

21 Sunday Cloudy morn with fog & gentle rain, wind N the day.

Sun now at the vernal equinox and the ground covered, with snow, Day cloudy with some rain

22 Monday. Cloudy morn wind NE & rain & sleet; the day cloudy and very little thinning of the snow

This month thus far has
 March been as cold as the preceeding
 22 winter
 23 Tuesday. Morn cloudy wind
 NE. and day the same
 Island of Lobos: (Lobos)
 Island } A writer at the island under
 of Lo the date of March 7th says
 bos "The Island is lovely little
 spot, about 2 miles in cir
 cumference, 12 miles from the
 Mexican shore, about miles
 from Tampico, and some 130
 miles from Vera Cruz. It is cov
 ered with trees & shrubs; brack
 ish water is found by digging
 from 4 to 6 feet. Fish and fowl
 are in profusion; and with these
 we have a delightful sea air, that
 14 hours out of 24 makes the
 place pleasant; but we are lit
 erally roasting during a portion
 of the day. The sun is so hot that
 our faces & arms are blistered if
 exposed only a few minutes.

Cli }

mate }

March
23
Heat }
of }

To day by Fahrenheit, in the shade I scored 92 degrees.
The remark among the volunteers is "If this is winter, what will summer be?" There are few such in our regiment, and they are from the country.
Gen. Scott's forces, it is supposed, are to assemble at the island, land on the coast at, or near Tempi co and make a land march to Vera Cruz. But at this season it will be singular if they escape fatal sickness; and if they carry Vera Cruz by siege, the march to the Mexican capital will be 200 miles, over a broken populous & difficult country.
and under the nearly vertical rays of the sun. Under these conditions troops would not be singular.
At this season military operations within or near the tropics are attended by fatal ~~sickness~~ diseases, especially among new troops from the temperate regions.

In

March
23
Effects
of hot
season
on
troops }

In a work entitled A Systematic View of the formation, discipline, and economy of Armies the author says, "the revolution of a season kills or renders ineffective two thirds of a regiment or of an army, allotted to the service of the islands in the West Indies." (Dr. Robert Jackson an experienced Army Surgeon, printed London, 1804)

Inva
sion
of St
Domin
go }

In 1802 Bonaparte sent a force to St Domingo, consisting 35000 of his best troops, and a considerable feat to take and hold possession of the island. In the course of 4 or 5 months the French troops were reduced to 13,000 men by pestilence and the sword, and the island was restored to its negro government. Numerous other cases

- March 23 might be cited to show the fatality of campaigns in regions in, or near, tropical countries. Bonaparts forces sailed from France in December 1801 and the campaign chosen in the following May, but the "favorable season" was not exempt from sweeping sickness, and the commander Le Clure, and several of his best officers fell victims to the climate. Should the war with Mexico continue through the approaching hot season. I tremble for the fate of our deluded volunteers, whose bones will strew the field of Mexico, and serve as monuments of the injustice of a neighboring nation, which had lost its sense of right & rectitude in its inordinate cupidity.
- 24 Wednesday. Morn particularly cloudy but soon fair, and wind W the day generally cloudy

March
24
Reports
of a
Battle
in Mex
ico } The New-York Herald of
the 22 instant, contains vari
ous accounts of a Battle between
Gen. Taylor's forces & those Santa
Anna, near Saltillo, in which
Gen Taylor lost 2,000 and Santa
Anna 4,000 men. The accounts
are incoherent and uncertain,
but that a battle has occurred
is probable. Gen Taylor is said
to have retreated to Monterey, &
lost some of his wagon train,
and his line of operation with
the Rio Grand, exposed to the Mex
ican detached parties His force
is said to be from 5000 to 6000
and the Mexicans from 20,000
to 25,000, most of the regular troops
being with Gen. Scott on the expe
dition against Vera Cruz. The
number said to have been killed on
both sides is improbable We
wait for more authentic accounts
The general action has taken
place as the accounts state
on the 21 and 22d of the February

it

March
24
No account from Gen Taylor

it is singular that nothing definite has been heard of it from Gen. Taylor, at this time. This delay is to be accounted for, only on the supposition that the communication between Monterey and the Rio Grand had been cut off by Santa Anna's forces; and of the numerical force of the Mexicans, was so great as the accounts state, that is not improbable; and In this case Mr. Polk may find it necessary to call for new volunteer corps; per his ten new regiments and in corp's and the officers & men are to be disciplined, before they are brought into the battle field. Expence may teach Mr. Polk one useful lesson Viz That before he invades a country he should be prepared for it; and that new fledged Generals should try their wings before they attempt a flight. Senator

Benton

March
24
Sena}
tor
Ben
ton }

Benton may, however, be an exception, for “He asks no Angel’s wing, no seraph’s fire”¹⁰ to aid his ascent to Mr Polks Lt. General & commander in Chief The modesty of this man re minds me of Gay’s Bear in the Boat.
 “A Bear of shagg and manner rough At climbing trees expert enough, For dexterously, and safe from harm, Year after year he robbed the swarm Thus thriving on industrious toil He gloried in his pilfered spoil The trick so swelled him with conceit He thought no enterprise to great Alike in sciences & in arts, He boasted universal parts; Pragmatic, busy, bustling bold, His arrogance was uncontrol’d: And thus he made his party good, And grew dictator of the wood The beasts, with admiration stare And think him a prodigious Bear.”

¹⁰ Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man.*

- March 24 In his success, in navigating his boat, see fable 5th, Vol. 2d. The Fable is replete with hints for the conduction of our national affairs at this time~
- 25 Thursday. Morn hazy, but soon fair, and wind SW. the day fair and air a little softened
In the deep cuts of our rail road frequent obstructions ~~are~~
are found from the sliding earth from the declivities, and 8 or 10 men are employed to remove the obstructions. This is a circumstance that ought to have been avoided in the choice of route.
- Rail
road }
26 Friday. Morn cloudy, wind NE; day cloudy & some rain~
From an analysis of all the accounts from Mexico, it appears there had been several days of fighting between Santa Anna and Gen. Taylor, and the latter

March
 26
 Gen. Tay
 lor's re
 treat } had been compelled to fall
 back towards the Rio Grand
 with considerable loss of men
 artillery & baggage, leaving a
 garrison at Monterey for
 its defence. If the Mexicans
 are as numerous as reported,
 they may recover the Country as
 far as that river; in which
 case, Gen. Scotts expedition
 down the coast, and even
 the capture of Vera Cruz
 will be but a short step
 in the conquest of Mexico.
 But suppose Gen. Scott obtains
 possession of Vera Cruz, it must
 be by a regular siege, and it
 may be perhaps a protracted one. Is he
 then to march on to the Mex
 ican capital at this season,
 when the almost vertical rays
 of the sun are darting upon
 his men in full vigor
 fraught with the [] fatal
 pestilence and death. The fate
 of Bonaparte's troops in the
 expedition to St Domingo

and
 Scotts
 armies }
 move
 ments }

- March may be reiterated with all
26 of its horrors.
- 27 Saturday. Cloudy morn,
 rain last night, some snow
 in the morn, with wind from
 N & NE; the day continued cloudy & cold
 Some of the flying accounts from
 Mexico say, Gen. Taylor [] [—]
 cut from further retreat from the places
~~from his retreat to Monterey;~~ and
 that he had called on the Governors of
 the SW states for reinforcement of
 troops, in addition to the volunteers
 now on their passage by sea Col.
 Cushings volunteers from Massa
 chusetts, may yet find other than
 a pleasant sport. Santa Anna's
 Mexicans, seem to be prepared for
 fight, and if they have captured
 6 pieces of cannon from Gen. Taylor
 they will again meet him in
 the field. With determined reso
 lutions, and show a resist
 ence not looked for by our
 wild war hawks. Where

March
27

The
mili-
ary
oper-
ation
in
Mexi-
co

Where are Mr Polk's ten new regiments? The officers are appointed, but we have nothing of the rank & file Perhaps, like Senator Benton, they think the "better part of courage is prudence" and stay at home, secure from harm.

The advance of the Mexicans at the time seems to be equal [—] finding a portion of Taylor's force drawn off under Scott to attack Vera Cruz Santa Anna advanced upon the forces near Saltillo, forced him back to ~~Monterey~~ Buena Vista & pushed forward strong detachments towards Taylor's base on the Rio Grand to break up the line & to capture the weak [] erected for its defence; and with Santa Annas ~~vast~~ superiority this is a probable result in which case the conquest must commence de novo¹¹. In the mean time Taylor with an insufficient supply of provisions, may capitulate.

¹¹ Latin "start from the beginning"

March
27
Re marks } on

Should this occur, Gen. Taylor will no doubt be blamed censured for advancing so far into the Country with so small a force: but undoubtedly he received his orders from the white house, by & with the consent of Senator Benton. Mr Polk's chief coun ciler. What a pity the Senator is not at head of the army, with a carte blanche & 3 millions of Dollars from Mr Polk's secret purse!

28 Sunday Morn fair wind W; day very clear dissolving the snow slowly: the ground shows on the west side of hills, but the air is rather cold.

29 Monday. Morn cloudy & snowy, wind N; cloudy & fair All the accounts received from the Rio Grand agree in representing Gen. Taylor's Army as in a critical situation, either at Monterey or some position further south. Santa Anna with his overwhelming force, holding the adjacent country, and extremely

March
29

Some
of the
rcd

strong detachments toward
the Rio Grand to capture
Taylor's posts on the river be
fore [] [] can be sent for his de
fence. Should Taylor's pro
visions fail, he may be com
pelled to surrender his force to
the Mexicans. Several volun
teer regiments are on the passes
to Brazos, and whether they
will arrive in season to afford
relief to Taylor, is doubtful.
At any rate, they will be but
ill prepared for field fighting
on their debarkation.
In the mean time Scott may
capture Vera Cruz, but probably
he will find a strong force in the
mountains between him & the city
of Mexico. Now it appears that
a country of 6 or 7 millions of in
habitants are not to be con
quered at a blow. And should
we, by our [] strides, con
vert the Mexicans to a military
nation, we may rue the lesson
we have taught them.

- March
30

Tuesday. Morn broken clouds
wind N.W., day clear & pleas-
ant, but a plenty of snow on
the ground & air cool~
It is rumored today, and be-
lieved by some, that the recent ac-
counts of Gen. Taylor's & Santa
Anna's movements in Mexico, are
all a fabrication. But as low
an opinion as I have of some of
the democratic papers, I am not
ready to believe that, the whole
[] a tissue of lies fabricated by the Ed-
itors. Such a gross imposition
should sink the character of their
papers to infamy. Under the
fashionable phrase of of a Hoax
some are ready to believe them
very harmless, and even a display
of wit & shrewdness. We are
not of this school—We despise
falsehood in every form and
shape

31.

Wednesday, Morn cloudy, with
brisk snow 2 or 4 inches deep, wind
N.E. & winter in full fact. The

March
31
Steam }
Mill }

The day mostly cloudy,
but the sun seen alternately sank
cold air
An association of our people
is preparing & collecting materials
for ree[rec]ting a steam mill near
the rail road opposite to the south
end of our village. Of the utility
of these machines I have not much know
ledge: but if found useful
I think it must be in places where
nature has been sparing of water
falls, which in a degree is the
case in this town. The mill
though safe from water floods,
are exposed to fire, and with
out [] care will be con
summed. I hope the enterprise will
be successful~

April
1

Thursday
Morn fair, Wind S.W.,
the day fair & cool.
The aspect is now that of the
depth of winter, sleighing good
and not a patch of ground to
be seen. This is something
uncommon at this season.

April
1 The Springfield Dayly of yes
terday contains corroborative accounts
of Santa Anna's & Gen. Taylors oper
ations in Mexico, but nothing official
from the latter. It appears Taylor
had repressed the attacks of the Mexicans
but had been compelled to retreat to Mon
terey, with the loss of 6 pieces of can
non which left spiked, and his
retreat to the Rio Grand completely
obstructed.

[] to [] upon a just cause, the
Mexicans are putting forth en
ergy worthy of men whose
rights are disregarded and all
of its institutions prostrated assembled to
gratify and crown ambitions eraving
of our wild democracy, whose
math in plain language, would
be anarchy, [—] spoil
and my gain!~~

Death
of Gen
Nev
ers }
We hear of the death of Gen.
John Nevers of Northfield, Sheriff
of our County, on the 30th ulto aged
74 years. He attended Court last
week at Greenfield returned home
sick and died after a short illness

Sketch
of Cha-
racter }

In the life of Gen. Nevers much is seen that was commendable and particularly in his industry and perseverance, under untoward circumstances, in gaining an education competent to the practice of law. which he followed for several years in the town of Northfield. If on his younger days, he was swept along by the currant of Jeffersonian politics in his later life he made amends by embracing a regular course, which has met the esteem of the true patriots and his loss will be regretted by the public.

2. Friday. Morn cloudy and snow falling briskly, with a NW wind; day continued cloudy and considerable snow fell. Winter now puts on its full dress & spring seems distant.
 3 Saturday. Morn cloudy; wind SW fair at noon. Day con tinued fair

We

- April
3
account
recd of
the
late
Battle } We now have accounts of
the battles fought between Santa
Anna and Gen Taylor, on
the 22d and 23 of February, at Bue
na Vista about 6 miles west of Sal
tillo, which are supposed to be au
thentic, though not official. These
battles were fought with desper
ate bravery on both sides, and
Santa Anna fell back to Agua Nue
va which had been occupied
by Gen. Taylor. The loss on the
in our side is put down at 700
wounded, and on the part of the
Mexicans, estimated at about 4000.
Gen Taylors communication with
his base on the Rio Grand, is said to
be cut off. See Springfield daily Republican
April 2d.
- 4 Sunday Morn cloudy; some snow
falling & W. wind. (Two particulars
of [] by [] [])
See ~~Springfield Daily Republican April~~
~~2, 1847~~) day continued cloudy
and of course little thawing of
the snow.

April
5

Monday. Morn fair, wind N.
and N.W. the day clear
and some thawing of
snow on the hill sides,
and the roads have
become bare.
This day an Election of
County Commissioners by the
several towns. Two tickets
have been nominated by con
ventions at Greenfield. one
of the old Board who refused
to license taverns &c for the
sale of ardent spirits, the other
for a Board who will grant
liberty to retail liquors in
all cases when they shall
think proper. The subject has
~~excited~~ provided considerable excite
ment. The votes in this town
were proved of 100 majority
for the license ticket But the
election I think is doubtful. Should
the present [] system be continued
I apprehend more disorder, will occur
than in the one of ardent spirits.

April
6

Letter }
from }
E.

Tuesday. Morn cloudy, wind
NE, with some fall of snow
the day cloudy through out
Recd a letter from Elizabeth
H. dated Burlington April
1st. Her little Charles unwell
with a cold. She represents the
area the severe and the snow
rather deep weather cold
and the Lake still covered with
ice. They board at the Express
Hotel close to the Lake, but hope
to get into a private family.
Burlington, she thinks, is a plea
sant place in the summer season
which I believe is its character.
The remarkable severity of the
month of March pass is not con
fined to that place, we have ex
perienced nearly the same. and I
am informed that the snow is now
3 or 4 feet deep in the northerly part
of Vermont. My anxiety for
little Charles will interrupt my
repose; he is a feeble one and
needs the warm breezes of summer
to restore his health and may
they soon occur.

April
7

Wednesday Morn partially fair
wind N.W. and day generally
fair, but not warm a plenty
of snow on the ground~
More than 40 days have elapsed
since the battles between Santa An
na & Gen Taylor occurred,
and, as yet, we have no offic
ial account from the latter
but the accounts otherwise recd
are supposed to be nearly cor
rect; but the Mexican loss is
no doubt much overrated.

April
8

Thursday Morn fair
wind SW day continued
fair and reduced the snow.

Gen
Tay
lors
official

We have at length received Gen.
Taylors official accounts of the battle
at Buena Vista, about 7 miles south
of Saltillo. The loss on his part
is stated at about 700 and that
of the Mexicans 1500. The General
prepares to return to Monterey. San
ta Anna's army is said to be retreating
on San Luis Potosi in some confusion.

April
8

Gen. Scotts }
Vera Cruz }

Fast }
day }

Gen. Scotts forces are said to have landed near Vera Cruz on the 10th of March, and to have invaded the city & castle, without much opposition~

This day is our Annual fast, in compliance with the Governor's proclamation—an old practice of our Puritan Fathers still kept up in New England~

My good friend L.B. Lincoln of Hingham made me a spot call on the evening, full of his famed goodness. He has his family with him at Dr Willards and leaves tomorrow morning for home & his Academy~

- April Friday Morn fair,
9 wind NW, Some rain fell
 last night, lessening the snow
 considerably: The day con
tinued fair.
- 10 Saturday. Morn fair, wind
 variable from E to S.W., PM
 scattering clouds & fair wind
W., brisk and cool. The
snow nearly gone in our street
and home lots.
One month has elapsed since
Gen Scott invested Vera Cruz
and we have nothing of the pro
gress of the siege. Those who
have volunteered in this service
may, perhaps stifle their moral
sense and claim to believe they are
performing a duty to their country
by killing & plundering the people
of a neighboring republic who
are striving for their rights &
independence and only ask us
to be just and do as we would
be done by. But why do I pre
sent moral consideration to wild

rapacious democracy which
knows no right but power
and deems it meritorious
to kill & plunder their fellow
men for gain & spoil.

The plans & designs of the democratic leaders are daily losing their disguise; Two thirds at last of the Mexican territory are to be annexed to ours, or the whole brought under our rapacious grasp. In this war the nations of Europe will perceive the flaws of our democracy: Their West India islands will next attract its ferocity. Already Cuba has been doomed to its fate‡ and it remains only to get up some

‡To all who have [] the plans of Democracy no proof is necessary to establish this facts. Already a motion been broached in Congress, to authorize the the purchase of the island; lest Annexation is more []

- April 10 clashing with Spain to seize on the spoil. The British provinces on the North and east, are next to receive our paternal hug, and no land in N America is to be suffered to remain under the governments of Europeans; and whether Darien is to limit our southern encroachment: history may relate. But Rome fell by her ambition & rapacity. So may we.
- 11 Sunday Morn fair, wind NW and fair day with cool air Little snow on the low grounds and that in detached patches.
- 12 Monday morn cloudy; wind SW & a flash of snow fell: the day generally fair but cool.
- 13 Tuesday. Morn cloudy wind N.E. but ~~soon~~ fair & clear throughout the day. The day Mr Forbes's family leave me to take residence in my farm house, and Mr Henry Osgood & new wife come to reside with me. During

April During the past year residence
 13 of Mr Forbes with me I have
 Depar experienced the kindest care and
 ture of it is due to them to say that
 my I sincerely thank them for their
 family } great attention to my wants.
 Reflec The two young boys Charles &
 tions } George have affected me
 great amusement & became
 enlivening companions; and
 the little Sarah, of months is
 now developing the germs of the
 [] mind, has afforded me
 great []. It is with regret
 I part with the whole group
 May the best of Heavens smiles
 attend them
Siege of Vera Cruz We have
 that the Mexicans surrounded
 the City & Castle to Gen. Scott on
 the 29th Ult. after 3 or 4 days
 firing from the batteries, and
 that 4000 men laid down their
 arms to our Army. Loss of our
 troops 65 killed & wounded.
 What [] are next

Fall Siege of Vera Cruz
 of V We have
 Cruz } that the Mexicans surrounded
 the City & Castle to Gen. Scott on
 the 29th Ult. after 3 or 4 days
 firing from the batteries, and
 that 4000 men laid down their
 arms to our Army. Loss of our
 troops 65 killed & wounded.

April
13

to be made by Gen. Scott is doubtful; but probably Mr Polks three millions of pocket money will be brought into operation and new annexations proposed.

The capture of this post is but a small step towards the conquest of Mexico. In our revolutionary wars, we did not despair of defense while the British held New port, New-York City, Long Island Philadelphia and Charles town, S.C. though we were but three million of people, principally inhabiting the country east of the aleghany mountains and without resources for war.

In the first three years of the war our prospects of success ~~were~~ were at a lower ebb than are the Mexicans at this time

After our defeat from ~~at~~ White plain in 1776, the British captured forts Washington & Kings bridge with 2700 men Washington retreated over the Hudson to New Jersey & subsequently he ~~was~~ [] for Lee on the Jersey shore and retreated across that state [] the

April
13

the Delaware to the Pennsylvania shore, with little more than a rear guard. During this depressed state of our army, the British over spread New Jersey and established positions on the Delaware with an impression that they could hold the country with a corporals guard” In 1780 the British [] and took Charlestown S. Carolina in which was a garrison of about 5000 including militia & 500 in the hospitals. Upwards of 400 pieces of artillery were surrendered and all the American vessels in the harbor destroyed. Soon after the British overspread ran many parts of the Carolinas and our land forces were nearly annihilated But though the southern states were for a times conquered, they were at length relieved & the army driven back to the sea coast. If the Mexicans are excited and determined on defense, there is little ground for believing they will be conquered & submit to our ruthless invasion.

- April 14 Wednesday Morn fair, wind SW A fair day with scattering c. Up to this time we have had no day of warm air, and some patches of snow are still seen. If my recollections are correct, the transition from cold to hot are not so sudden as in former times, for which I can not readily account. that the clearing of the country of its woods should produce some alteration in its climate is probable but the result, appears to me doubtful.
- 15 Thursday. Morn cloudy. wind SW: the day generally cloudy, but the sun occasionally out—air cool. We have Gen. Scott's official account of his capture of Vera Cruz. The first battle spread upon the City, late the 22d and the City [] Scott, 29th of March, after a capable [] force (See another Bound Book like this for Continuation)